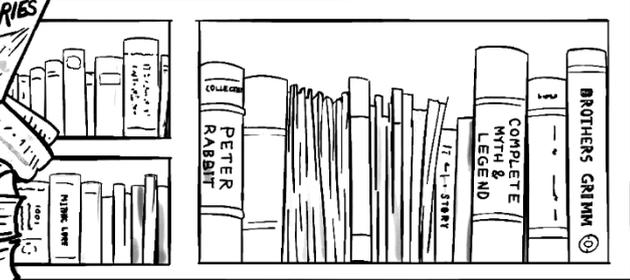


BY KIDS FOR KIDS

ACTIVITY BOOK

BEOWULF





When Beowulf arrived at the hall of Hrothgar, the people parted for him to approach. He strode up to Hrothgar on his throne and bent on one knee before him. "Rise, brave warrior," said Hrothgar, "you have come in our time of need."

Beowulf rose, and said, "Often before I have encountered sea monsters, destroyed the Jotun tribe and slain night Nixes. I have no fear of this monster!" The king clapped and the crowd cheered. Beowulf continued, "I hear that the Grendel's hide is so thick, that no weapon can harm him. Therefore I will not bother to carry my sword or shield into combat, but I will fight it hand to hand." The crowd gasped. Beowulf lay his weapons and shield at the feet of the king.

"And now, we wait," said the king, with a grim look on his face.

The night was long. At last, everyone was asleep. Except for Beowulf. He remained alert, looking up whenever he heard a strange sound or saw a suspicious shadow. But hour after hour, all was peaceful.

Beowulf's eyelids were just beginning to feel heavy when the door was kicked open with a loud bang. The Grendel burst in and strode forward, with its eyes blazing like fire. It was a hideous creature, similar in shape to a human, but at least four times bigger, with thick, leathery skin, and long, dirty hair.

With a grim smile of delight, he saw the sleeping guards, seized one of them and devoured him! Then he reached his dirty hand out at Beowulf, but the warrior grasped the hand and threw the Grendel to the ground. In shock, the Grendel got back to its feet, roared, and charged at Beowulf, but at the last minute, he stepped to the side and tripped the foul creature, which shrieked as it fell to the floor. It yelped in pain. Beowulf ran after it, and let out a fearsome battle cry. The Grendel half crawled, half ran out the door as fast as it could. Its howls could be heard as it disappeared into the night.



The grateful King could hardly thank Beowulf enough. A feast

was prepared, the walls of the great hall were covered with cloth of gold, and the hero received many gifts, a helmet, jewelled armour, golden cups, and many other precious things.

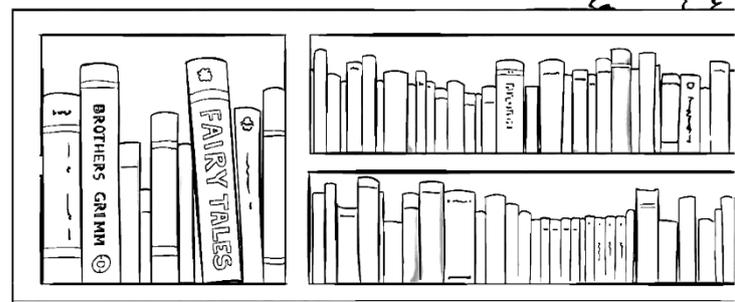
But, when the banquet was over they all left to rest, as they thought, in safety. But that night, they would suffer from the Grendel's revenge! Not from the Grendel itself, but from its mother, a monstrous witch, ravenous and raging, and even crueller than her son. She burst into the great hall, seized the man who was the King's favourite amongst all his nobles, and carried him off to the lake.

Beowulf said, "Have no fear! I promise you all she shall not escape!" Beowulf put on his armour and white helmet. One of Hrothgar's men lent him a short sword that had never yet failed anyone who had used it in battle.

So he set off for the lake, which was about a mile from the Palace. When he arrived he saw dark trees hanging around the gloomy water. He could not tell how deep the water was. A strange fire could be seen in the distance on the surface of the lake. The water of the lake was bubbling in a frightening way. Beowulf plunged into the lake and began to search for the monster.

He waded deeper and deeper until a hand grabbed his foot from below. He did his best to escape the grip, but it was no help. He took a deep breath before he was pulled underwater. He felt himself being dragged through the dark depths until he found himself pulled into some kind of dreadful underwater cavern. At least there was air for him to breathe! He gasped for air as he was tossed to the floor. By the light of a fire, he could now clearly see the mighty lake-witch glaring at him. He drew his mighty war sword and swung it at her, but it bounced off her as if her skin was metal armour!

So Beowulf threw away his sword and began to wrestle with her, trusting in his mighty strength. He seized her by the shoulder but unluckily tripped and fell. In a moment she was upon him, and seized her broad dagger, gave him a furious blow to his shoulder. But he was saved by his chainmail armour.





Suddenly he saw lying on the floor a magic sword; a huge weapon with the finest edge, forged of old in the time of giants. No ordinary man could have wielded that blade. But Beowulf was no ordinary man! He seized it, swung it twice around his head, and gave the witch a mighty blow! She was defeated!

Meanwhile, Hrothgar and the rest of the Danes had been sitting watching the water. They had no hope that Beowulf survived. Imagine their astonishment and delight to see him rise out of the water! Oh, how they cheered! Beowulf had protected them, he had defeated the evil Grendel and its fearsome mother. He was the bravest and mightiest hero that the Danish people had ever known!

THE END



BEOWULF



WORD SEARCH

Beowulf

E D E N M A R K T B J R E H N U T M
D A F M L Z X Y Z E E W L S T U L W
H W Q K S V X X B O F F Y U V T Q R
R S Q D L U R C S W O R D T U P D E
O A G W N A D A R U O Q I T Z K Q S
T M D O T G K M U L R Z U S S E A T
H M H H R V J E C F L P W O T F M L
G D Y U I T O W B A X A T I F Y N E
A X W K I N G C W D C G K D D E U X
R U N D E R W A T E R L H E R O Y W
A U Q L E G R E N D E L G Q X K R B
Y C D C H A I N M A I L E Q A U F M

Find the following words in the puzzle.

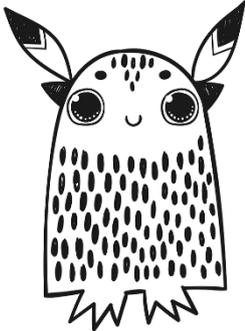
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

BEOWULF
CHAINMAIL
DENMARK
GRENDEL
HERO

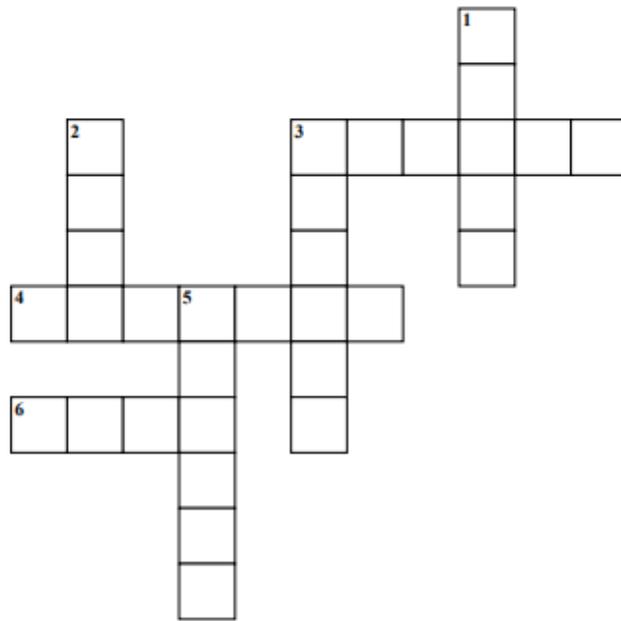
HROTHGAR
KING
LAKE
SWORD
UNDERWATER

WRESTLE

CROSSWORD



Beowulf

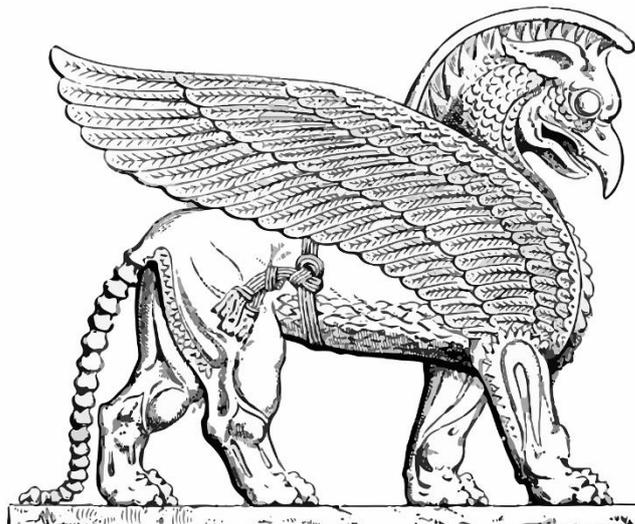


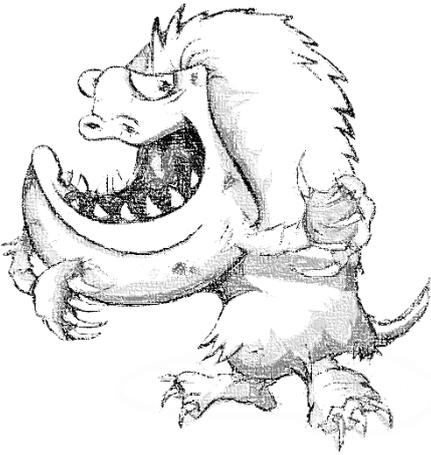
Across

- [3] A chair for a king
- [4] Where does this story take place?
- [6] How did Beowulf go to Denmark?

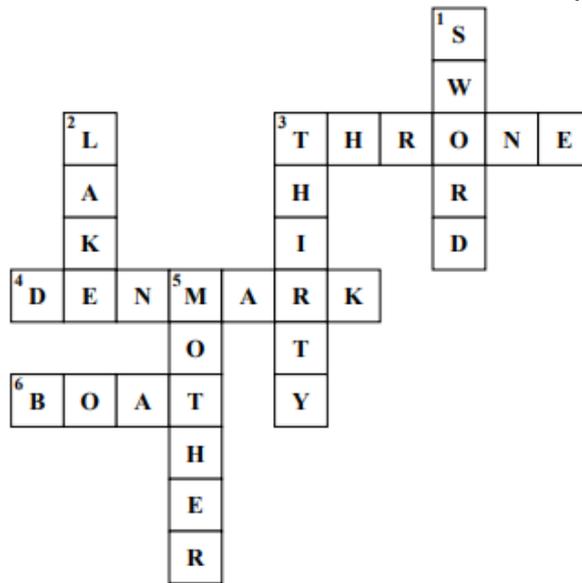
Down

- [1] Beowulf's main weapon
- [2] Where did the witch live?
- [3] How many men was Beowulf as strong as?
- [5] What family member did the Grendel live with?





Solution



Across

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- [4] Where does this story take place?
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MAZE

Find the Beowulf's Sword.

