

## Bookfolio for **Beowulf, a New Telling**

Author: [Robert Nye](#)

Publisher: Dell

ISBN: 0440905605

Recommended for: [Grades 5-8](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Legends and Folktales](#)

**Story Summary:** The Danes were kingless until the god Odin sent the baby Scyld Scefing in a magical boat to Denmark. Scyld was a successful warrior king, as was his son Healfdene and his grandson, Hrothgar. Hrothgar married the good Wealhtheow, and he built the great hall. One night Grendel, the monster, entered the hall and devoured thirty men. The monster came again and killed, but he could not kill Hrothgar who was protected by his queen's goodness.

Beowulf, nephew of Hygelac, King of the Geats, was short and stocky, had great strength in his hands, and had bad sight after being stung by bees as a boy. He took 14 men to Denmark to defeat Grendel. He succeeded in ripping Grendel's arm out of its socket and angering the even more evil Grendel's Mother, a wife of the biblical Cain. She came to Heorot and killed Aeschere, the king's friend, and she also took the evil Unferth with her, only to decapitate him. Beowulf defeated Grendel's Mother by strangling her in her underwater cave. He then returned to his people, and for many years Beowulf served Hygelac and Hygelac's son Hardred. It was upon Hardred's death that Beowulf became king, and for forty years there was peace. Then the Firedrake was awakened when a cup was stolen from him. Beowulf took the young Wiglaf and 12 men with beehives on this final quest. Beowulf taunted the Firedrake, and Wiglaf threw a stake in its jaw and then threw the queen bee in also. The hives of bees followed and stung the Firedrake to death. Beowulf died in his last quest and was buried under a great mound by the sea.

**Read-aloud Recommendation:** Chapter V, "Nine Sea-monsters, pages 32-41."

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:**

**R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

Beowulf, a New Telling - Independent Activities	Skills
1. <b>Opposite Settings</b> (Noting author's use of descriptive words)	D , R , S , W
2. <b>An American Hero</b> (Comparing two heroes)	R , S , W
3. <b>Unferth Undone</b> (Writing an adventure story)	W
4. <b>Grendel's Story</b> (Writing from another character's point of view)	W
5. <b>Honey Bees</b> (Researching a topic)	R , S , W
6. <b>The Beowulf Map</b> (Drawing a map)	D
Beowulf, a New Telling - Group Activities	Skills
1. <b>Good vs. Evil</b> (Discussing recurring themes)	L , S
2. <b>Epic Heroes</b> (Comparing epic heroes)	S , W
3. <b>The BEOWULF Critics</b> (Comparing different versions)	R , S , W
4. <b>A Dialogue</b> (Creating a dialogue)	R , S , W
5. <b>Two Readings</b> (Reading a scene aloud)	R , S , W
6. <b>"Let's Talk About..."</b> (Discussing the story)	L , S

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