**Read the following passage from the epic *Beowulf* in which the author describes Beowulf’s rise to power and the awakening of a dragon. After reading closely, form an analytical paragraph in which you discuss how the author portrays the dragon as the inverse of Anglo-Saxon heroic values. (Consider the following thematic statement: Eagerness for glory may lead to greed).**

Afterwards, in the time when Higlac was dead 2200

And Herdred, his son, who’d ruled the Geats

After his father, had followed him into darkness—

Killed in battle with the Swedes, who smashed

His shield, cut through the soldiers surrounding

Their king-then, when Higd’s one son 2205

Was gone, Beowulf ruled in Geatland,

Took the throne he’d refused, once,

And held it long and well. He was old

With years and wisdom, fifty winters

A king, when a dragon awoke from its darkness 2210

And dreams and brought terror to his people. The beast

Had slept in a huge stone tower, with a hidden

Path beneath; a man stumbled on

The entrance, went in, discovered the ancient

Treasure, the pagan jewels and gold 2215

The dragon had been guarding, and dazzled and greedy

Stole a gem-studded cup, and fled.

But now the dragon hid nothing, neither

The theft nor itself; it swept through the darkness

And all Geatland knew its anger. 2220

But the thief had not come to steal; he stole,

And roused the dragon, not from desire

But need. He was someone’s slave, had been beaten

By his masters, had run from all men’s sight,

But with no place to hide; then he found the hidden 2225

Path, and used it. And once inside,

Seeing the sleeping beast, staring as it

Yawned and stretched, not wanting to wake it,

Terror-struck, he turned and ran for his life,

Taking the jeweled cup. 2330

 That tower

Was heaped high with hidden treasure, stored there

Years before by the last survivor

Of a noble race, ancient riches

Left in the darkness as the end of a dynasty 2335

Came. Death had taken them, one

By one, and the warrior who watched over all

That remained mourned their fate, expecting,

Soon, the same for himself, knowing

The gold and jewels he had guarded so long 2240

Could not bring him pleasure much longer. He brought

The precious cups, the armor and the ancient

Swords, to a stone tower built

Near the sea, below a cliff, a sealed

Fortress with no windows, no doors, waves 2245

In front of it, rocks behind.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |