**Read the following passage from the epic *Beowulf* in which Beowulf talks to King Hrothgar about his upcoming battle with Grendel. After reading closely, form an analytical paragraph in which you discuss how the author portrays Beowulf as the epitome of Anglo-Saxon heroic values.**

“Hail, Hrothgar!

Higlac is my cousin and my king: the days

Of my youth have been filled with glory. Now Grendel’s

Name has echoed in our land: sailors 410

Have brought us stories of Herot, the best

Of all mead-halls, deserted and useless when the moon

Hangs in the skies the sun had lit,

Light and life fleeing together.

My people have said, the wisest, most knowing 415

And best of them, that my duty was to go to the Danes’

Great king. They have seen my strength for themselves,

Have watche me rise from the darkness of war,

Dripping with my enemies’ blood. I drove

Five great giants into chains, chased 420

All of that race from the earth. I swam

In the blackness of night, hunting monsters

Out of the ocean, and killing them one

By one; death was my errand and the fate

They had earned. Now Grendel and I are called 425

Together, and I’ve come. Grant me, then,

Lord and protector of this noble place,

A single request! I have come so far,

O shelterer of warriors and your people’s loved friend,

That this one favor you should not refuse me— 430

That I, alone and with the help of my men,

May purge all evil from this hall. I have heard,

Too, that the monster’s scorn of men

Is so great that he needs no weapons and fears none.

Nor will I. My lord Higlac 435

Might think less of me if I let my sword

Go where my feet were afraid to, if I hid

Behind some broad linden shield: my hands

Alone shall fight for me, struggle for life

Against the monster. God must decide 440

Who will be given to death’s cold grip.

Grendel’s plan, I think, will be

What it has been before, to invade this hall

And gorge his belly with our bodies. If he can,

If he can. And I think, if my time will have come, 445

There’ll be nothing to mourn over, no corpse to prepare

For its grave: Grendel will carry our bloody

Flesh to the moors, crunch on our bones

And smear torn scraps of our skin on the walls

Of his den. No, I expect no Danes 450

Will fret about sewing our shrouds, if he wins.

And if death does take me, send the hammered

Mail of my armor to Higlac, return

The inheritance I had from Hrethel, and he

From Wayland. Fate will unwind as it must!” 455

**Read the following passage from the epic *Beowulf*. After reading closely, form an analytical paragraph in which you discuss how the author portrays Grendel as the inverse of Anglo-Saxon heroic values. (Consider the following thematic statement: Frustrated pride may lead to spite).**

A powerful monster, living down

In the darkness, growled in pain, impatient

As day after day the music rang

Loud in that hall1, the harp’s rejoicing

Call and the poet’s clear songs, sung 90

Of the ancient beginning of us all, recalling

The Almighty making the earth, shaping

These beautiful plains marked off by oceans.

Then proudly setting the sun and moon

To glow across the land and light it: 95

The Corners of the earth were made lovely with trees

And leaves, made quick with life, with each

Of the nations who now move on its face. And then

As now warriors saing of their pleasure:

So Hrothgar’s men lived happy in his hall 100

Till the monster stirred, that demon, that fiend,

Grendel, who haunted the moors, the wild

Marshes, and made his home in a hell

Not hell but earth. He was spawned in that slime,

Conceived by a pair of those monsters born 105

Of Cain2, murderous creatures banished

By God, punished forever for the crime

Of Abel’s death. The Almighty drove

Those demons out, and their exile was bitter,

Shut away from men; they split 110

Into a thousand forms of evil-spirits

And fiends, goblins, monsters, giants,

A brood forever opposing the Lord’s

Will, and again and again defeated.

1. Herot (Hrothgar’s mead hall)
2. Cain: oldest son of Adam and Eve who murdered his brother, Abel (Genesis)

MLA Citation:

(*Title of epic* line number).

(*Beowulf* 90).