

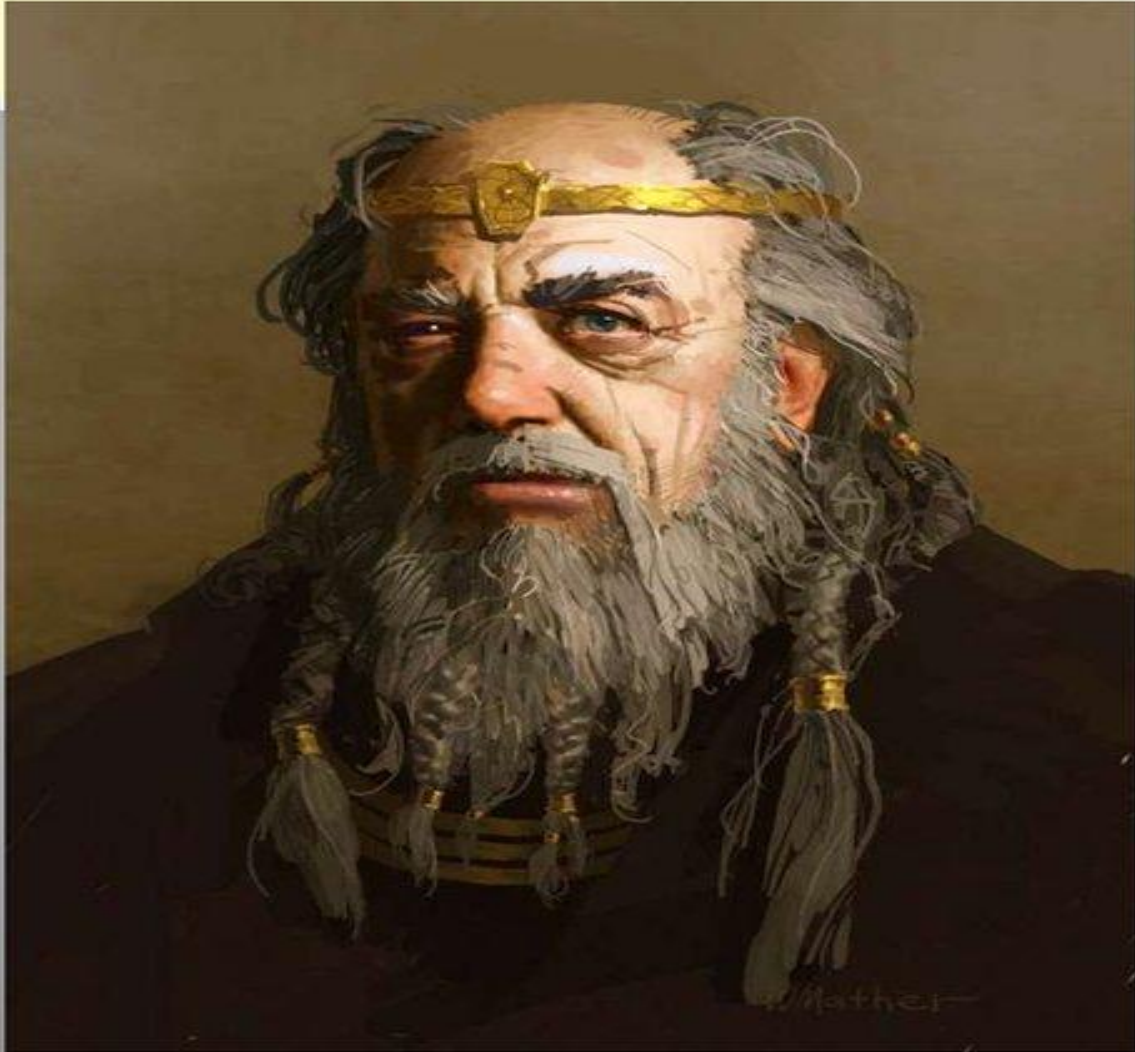
# OLD ENGLISH LITERATURE



# BEOWULF

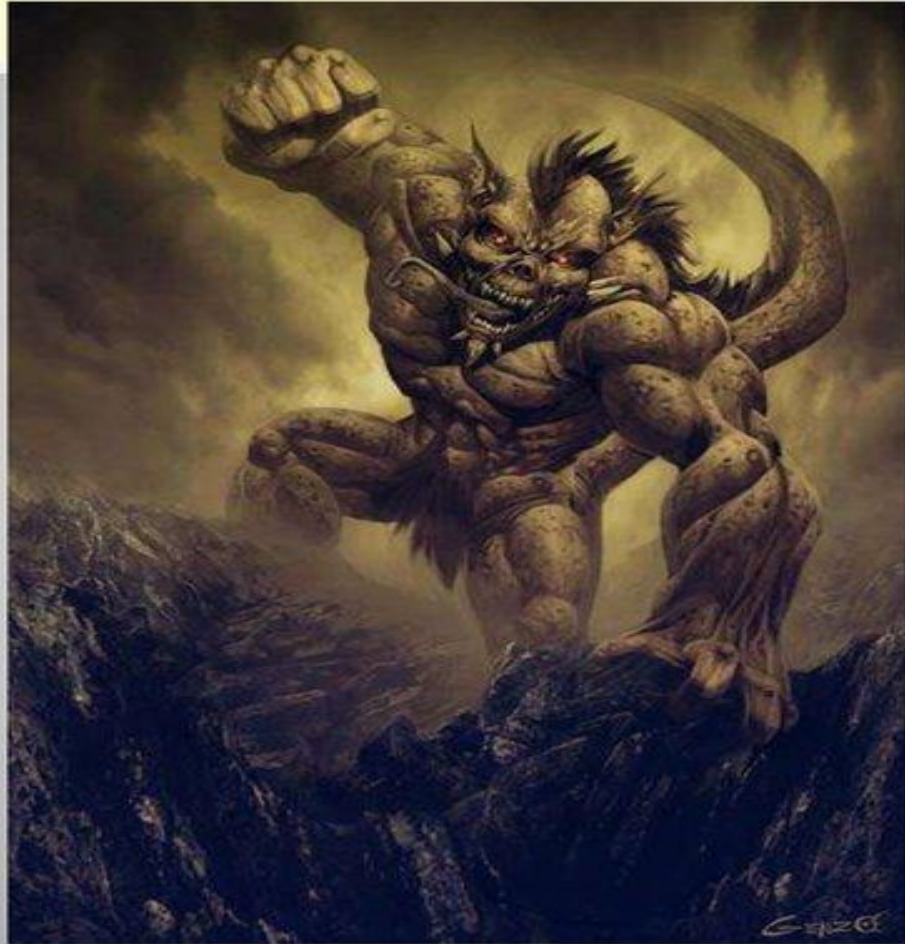
Beowulf was written in Anglo-Saxon (Old English), the language which, through the centuries, has developed into the English language we know today. As Anglo-Saxon is like a foreign language even to a native speaker of English, the extracts you are going to read have been translated into modern English. The translation by Francis Gunnmere (published in 1910) closely follows the original text and maintains some of its stylistic features.

# BEOWULF



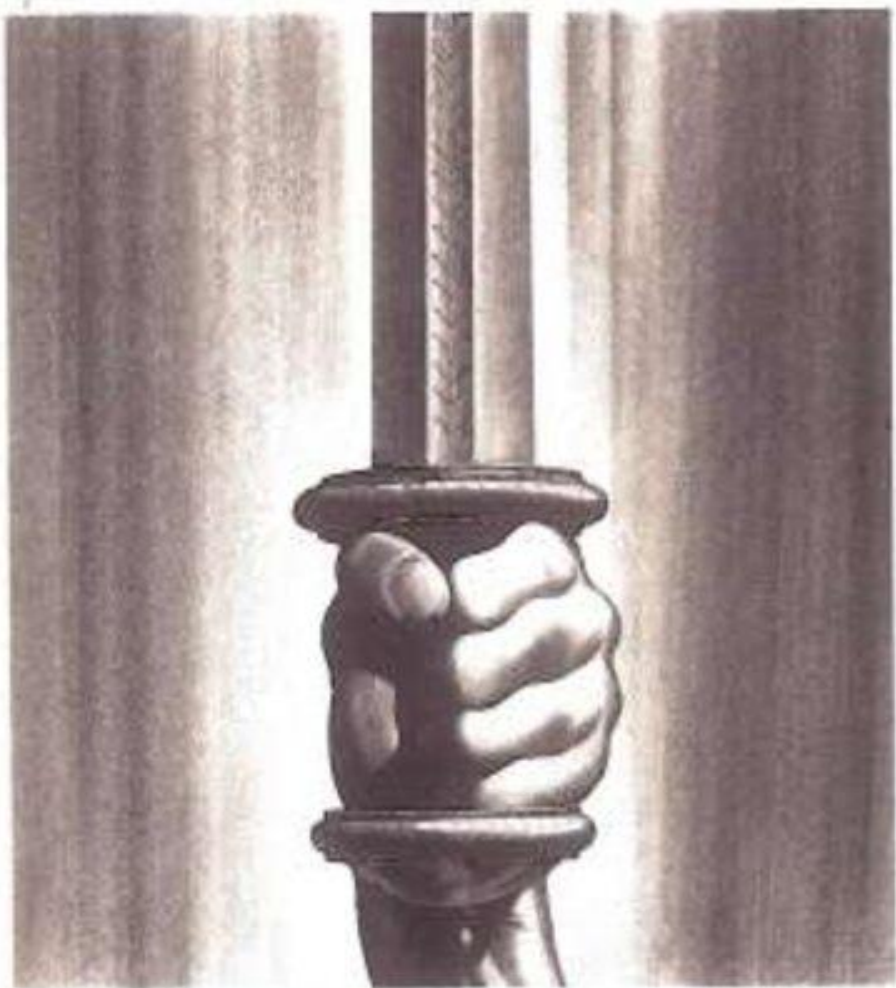
The story  
Hrothgar, king of  
Denmark, suffered  
while his kingdom  
was being attacked  
by a devouring  
monster, named  
Grendel.

# BEOWULF



He lived in the  
wastelands, and  
every night he  
visited  
Hrothgar's hall  
carrying off and  
killing his  
guests.

# BEOWULF



When he heard from mariners of Grendel's murderous attacks, he decided to help Hrothgar. He and some of his bravest followers crossed the sea to Denmark where they were welcomed by the king.

# BEOWULF



A big feast was held in their honour. That night everybody slept except Beowulf. Grendel entered Hrothgar's hall and killed one of Beowulf's sleeping men.

# BEOWULF



Beowulf, unarmed, fought the monster and with his great strength tore out one of Grendel's arms at the shoulder. Mortally wounded, Grendel retreated to his home in the surrounding wastelands.

# BEOWULF



Grendel's mother  
came to avenge  
her monster son's  
fatal injury and  
carried off a Danish  
nobleman and  
Grendel's torn off  
arm.

# BEOWULF



He fought Grendel's mother, killing her with an old sword he found in an underwater cavern. Grendel's body was also lying in the cavern so Beowulf cut off his head and brought it back to King Hrothgar.

# BEOWULF



There was a great feast in the hall to celebrate Beowulf's victory and an even greater celebration when he returned to his home country, where he was made king.