

# Beowulf to the Rescue

## Characters

Narrator  
Beowulf  
Hygelac  
Warden  
Hrothgar

**Narrator:** Beowulf had heard of the warring that was taking place across the ocean, where the hideous monster Grendel was terrorizing the Danes. In the dark of night, Grendel would burst through the doors of Hart Hall and feast upon the warriors he found lounging there.

**Beowulf:** (*bending his knee*) Kin-king Hygelac, I am much troubled by the tales of Grendel and the damage he causes the brave king Hrothgar.

**Hygelac:** But noble kin, you have fought valiantly for our people, the Goths, for long enough. Please stay here at home and finish out your days in peace.

**Beowulf:** No, good King. I must help Hrothgar and the Danes as well, for I am eager to prove my worth and my mettle.

**Narrator:** Beowulf took fifteen mighty warriors and set sail across the water for Daneland. The ship flew with a great wind in its sail and landed in Daneland two days hence.

**Beowulf:** We give thanks to the sea-god for the speed and ease of our journey.

**Warden:** Hold fast, warriors! (*holds up his sword*) Who are you that you come to my land in mail-coats with spear and sword in hand? You look strong and noble, but boldly you approach armed for battle. From where do you come?

**Beowulf:** We come the Goths, thanes of King Hygelac. We are here as friends, seeking your lord, King Hrothgar. We have heard of a terrible foe and come to perchance aide the good king in his need.

**Warden:** Ye come as friends? Follow me and I will lead you on. My men will guard your ship.

**Narrator:** And the men all marched forward eager for battle and to see the famed Hart Hall.

**Warden:** (*pointing*) There, ahead lies Hart Hall. I bid thee well, as I must return to my watch.

**Narrator:** The Warden wheeled his horse around and left. Soon the Goths were met by a warrior who took them to the king and introduced them, bidding them to leave their swords and shields until after they had met the king.

**Hrothgar:** Beowulf! (*holds out his hands in greeting*) I have known thy father and mother, and yourself in your youth. Welcome to my hall.

**Beowulf:** (*bowing low*) Thank you kin-King Hrothgar. I have heard of the glory of Hart Hall and the

horror of the beast that menaces you here. My friends have urged me to come, as they know I have battled monsters. I ask one boon of the king, that I may cleanse Hart Hall. I shall grapple with Grendel with my hands alone, for I hear of his hide which no steel can cleave. Should I die, I ask that you send back to Hygelac my coat of mail.

**Hrothgar:** O Friend Beowulf, it causes me pain and sorrow to admit what has happened here. (*shakes head and speaks slowly, with great sorrow*) Grendel has slain my kinsmen and troops here in this hall, for they slept here to confront him and died in the fight. But now, sit to the feast and eat with gladness, for your legend precedes you and I'm certain that victory will come to thee.

**Narrator:** And with the blessing of the king he had come to defend, Beowulf settled in for his last meal before he would meet the mighty Grendel. The weight on his shoulders was great, but honor and determination would lead him on to victory in his quest to protect the Danes.