**Hard Boiled Fiction: The Prosecution of Grendel**

**Summary:** A horrible set of murders have been committed! The Danish state is trying Grendel with the charge of first and second degree murder. However, some might say this act was in self-defense. Over the next few weeks, it will be your role to gather information to develop a case against both characters. So, as you annotate, look for evidence that supports both Beowulf and Grendel’s innocence and guilt. Basically, you should have quotes directly from the text that make both of these characters seem guilty or innocent.

**Roles:** You will have one of the following roles in this mock trial simulation:

* **Character**: You could be Grendel, Beowulf, Grendel’s Mother, Hrothgar, or any other character in what we have read. You will be responsible for getting into the role of the character. You must consider how the character would dress, talk, act, whose side they would be on, and how they might answer a myriad of questions. You will be responsible for writing down these ideas as preparation. You will be graded on that, your performance, and peer assessment.
* **The Prosecution**: You will be trying to condemn Grendel. You will gather information that supports the defendant’s guilt. You will develop questions that point to the heinous nature of the crime, its unprovoked nature, etc. You should also find quotes and questions that highlight the innocence of Beowulf. Always consider what line of questioning and argumentation your opponent’s will make and plan accordingly. You will be graded via written preparation, individual performance, and peer assessment.
* **The Defense**: You will be defending Grendel. You should build a case to show the innocence of your client. Do this by finding evidence from the text and developing questions which prove the innocence of Grendel and the fault of Beowulf. Always consider what line of questioning and argumentation your opponent’s will make and plan accordingly. You will be graded via written preparation, individual performance, and peer assessment.
* **The Jury**: You will decide if Grendel is guilty or innocent. If guilty, you will give him a proportionate sentence. In preparation, you should compile information surrounding the trial—historical context, timeline of the events, and explanation of your bias of prosecution. During the trial, you should be taking meticulous notes. Following the trial, you will deliberate in a fishbowl as characters, the prosecution, and the defense listen to the conversation. You will be graded on written preparation/notes, individual performance, and peer assessment.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/11-12/1/)

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.7](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/11-12/7/)

Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.1.C](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/11-12/1/c/)

Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that probe reasoning and evidence; ensure a hearing for a full range of positions on a topic or issue; clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions; and promote divergent and creative perspectives.

**Character List:** Beowulf, Grendel, Wiglaf, Hrothgar, Grendel’s Mom, guard, deserting soldier, The Dragon (8)

You will be responsible for/graded on:

1. Textual defense of acting, clothing, demeanor, relationships—at least one page
2. Acting
3. Costume
4. Class Preparation with your legal team
5. Peer assessment
6. Participation following jury decision

**The Prosecution:** Positive framing of Beowulf, negative framing of Grendel (1/4 class)

You will be responsible for/graded on:

1. Pre-written lines of questioning connected to the text
2. Argumentation within the trial
3. Valid reasoning
4. Peer assessment
5. Participation following jury decision

**The Defense**: Positive framing of Grendel, negative framing of Beowulf (1/4 class)

You will be responsible for/graded on:

1. Pre-written lines of questioning connected to the text
2. Argumentation within the trial
3. Valid reasoning
4. Peer assessment
5. Participation following jury decision

**Jury:**  Historical context, Research on legal system in Denmark, Reflect on bias/their take on the case, decision and defense in fishbowl (6-12)

You will be responsible for/graded on:

1. Written research on historical context, Danish legal system, and defense of current perspective on trial i.e. who you believe to be guilty/innocent with explanation before the trial (must be two pages)
2. Meticulous notes taken during the trial
3. Fishbowl deliberation explaining persuasive parts of the trial, stand out moments, supporting the verdict via events in the trial, and sentencing
4. Peer assessment