**Directions:**

1. Take time to do a close reading of Beowulf’s Boast.
2. Copy and paste Beowulf’s Boast (next page) into a Google Doc
3. **Underneath the boast, answer the following question: What is the difference between his boast and just bragging?**
4. Identify the following by highlighting them (use the highlight tool) AND labeling them---you can highlight in the text, then tab over from the line to identify the criteria in the right margin **(ONE example is done for you):**
   1. Beowulf’s references
   2. **4** specific feats (accomplishments)
   3. Role of fate
   4. Fairness (Anglo-Saxon ideal)
   5. **1** example of imagery
   6. **5** examples of alliteration
   7. **2** examples of kennings
   8. **2** significant lines (What does each reveal?)

**Next Assignment:**

1. Write your own boast (you can pick the task you are “applying” for with this boastful “resume”).
2. Length = AT LEAST 20 lines (# them)
3. Be specific and begin with a statement of **who you are**
4. CONVINCE your audience why you should be “hired” by explaining **what you intend to do or what you have done** and **why you are qualified**
5. Identify the following in your own boast:
   1. References
   2. **3** specific feats (accomplishments)
   3. **How you intend to accomplish your deed (proposed task)**
   4. **1** cultural ideal (ex. independence)
   5. **5** uses of alliteration
   6. **2** kennings

\*Note: Boasts may be serious, satirical, ironic, and/or humorous. They MUST be appropriate.

\*You may use “artistic license” to add interest to your boast.

**Beowulf’s Boast**

Beowulf arose, with his men

135 Around him, ordering a few to remain

With their weapons, leading the others quickly

Along under Herot’s steep roof into Hrothgar’s ‘H’ alliteration

Presence. Standing on that prince’s own hearth,

Helmeted, the silvery metal of his mail shirt

140 Gleaming with a smith’s high art, he greeted

The Danes’ great lord:

“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

145 Have brought us stories of Herot, the best

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

Hangs in skies the sun had lit,

Light and life fleeing together.

My people have said, the wisest, most knowing

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

Great king. They have seen my strength for themselves,

Have watched me rise from the darkness of war,

Dripping with my enemies’ blood. I drove

Five great giants into chains, chased

155 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 **f**

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

Lord and protector of this noble place,

A single request! I have come so far,

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

That this one favor you should not refuse me—

165 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

170 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

175 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,

180 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

185 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!”

**Answer: What is the difference between his boast and just bragging?**