

11/24/15

Final Project

Beowulf in Three Minutes

Growing up I loved hearing the tales and stories of the Greek gods and goddesses messing with the fools of Earth before I went to bed. I grew up with a knowledge and a passion for stories about mythology because of tapes and stories I listened to when I was little. I want to be a teacher one day, and I cannot contain my excitement to be able to pass on the same love and interest in literature to a child or teenager. For my creative final project I decided to read different passages from *Beowulf* to my little brothers who are the ages of six, eight, and twelve. From those passages I had them pick out their favorite parts, and we collaborated and made our own movie called *Beowulf in Three Minutes*.

I explained to my siblings that *Beowulf* is an Anglo-Saxon story, which is in an entirely different era than ours. I explained that people who live in that era loved to gather around and listen to stories and songs and drink all night. I explained that Beowulf was an epic poem and that whatever part we decide to make a film on we have to follow the story. For example during the battle with Grendel Beowulf had no sword or armor, so in the film neither could Beowulf (except a helmet to make it look semi-official). Another example is the fight with Grendel's mother. I read them the passage and of course being young they did not catch onto the sexual

innuendo of the story, so when shooting that scene I had Grendel's mother compliment Beowulf, "Oh Beowulf you bad boy! Look at those muscles!". Another scene where we followed the Anglo Saxon rules was the fight with the dragon. Beowulf's sword breaks, but he gets the dragon with his dagger. The film may be made by children but the importance of subtle things in scenes were not left out.

Beowulf is an exciting poem that has been made into many movies and plays for years. In the Anglo-Saxon culture putting on a show was an everyday occurrence; it was a very dramatic, violent, heroic, wild era. I wanted to join into that culture but bring it to the present day with some comic relief. Fighting was a lifestyle in that culture, so of course when making this film there had to be plenty of violence. I studied a lot of the Anglo-Saxon culture this semester and when filming this movie I wanted to make sure that I'm passing on my knowledge to my family, because I'm a huge fan of *Beowulf*. My philosophy in making this project was to put myself into a teacher mode by bringing to life the Anglo Saxon culture for my younger brothers, the same way that it was brought to life in me this semester.

The video may be 3 minutes long, but it took an entire day of studying Beowulf to see which scenes we wanted to do, to film, and then another day to edit the video. My brothers are very excited about Beowulf and they are hoping they get to study the great story when they get to high school. Who knows, they might just get to show this film in their class!

Script for *Beowulf in Three Minutes*

Song: Beltaine by Beltaine

Beowulf: I am Beowulf, and this is my story!

Dragon: I am the great dragon and I await Beowulf's presence.

Grendel: I am Grendel and I am coming for YOU!

Cuts to King Hrothgar

King Hrothgar: I am king Hrothgar, and these are my men. For years Grendel has been torturing us but tonight we party in the mead hall!

Grendel jumps into the "mead hall" and starts to attack the men and eat them. Beowulf comes out of nowhere...

Beowulf: I am Beowulf!

Fighting pursues... Beowulf rips off Grendel's arm.

Beowulf: I have Grendel's arm, he is now dead!

Scene cuts to King Hrothgar and Beowulf speaking

King Hrothgar: Thank you for saving our land from that beast, it was so brave of you to fight with no weapons.

Beowulf: Well he had no weapons either so it only seemed fair.

King Hrothgar: Accept this sword of our people as our gratitude.

Beowulf: Can I have a beer? *that was all the 8 year old*

Cuts to Grendel's Mother

Grendel's Mother: I am so sad that my son Grendel has died, I shall get my revenge!

Beowulf: Where is Grendel's mother?!

Grendel's Mother: You have killed my son!

Grendel's mother tries to seduce Beowulf...

Grendel's Mother: Oh Beowulf you bad boy...look at those muscles!

Beowulf slays Grendel's mother

Fast Forwards 50 years

Beowulf: I am king Beowulf. Hrothgar has died, I am ruler of the land!

Dane: Oh no! There's a Dragon torturing us! What shall we do!

Beowulf and Wiglaf go on a search for the dragon

Beowulf: Me and my men are searching to defeat the great Dragon, come along Wiglaf.

Wiglaf: ARGHH

Beowulf and his men enter into the Dragon's territory. Battle ensues.

Cuts to Wiglaf

Wiglaf: That was the day when the Great Beowulf died, but we buried him with lots of treasure.

Long live Beowulf!!

