



Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo

Theme: Loyalty

Key vocabulary:

Nouns: allies, foes, fiend,

Verbs: prosper, confront, flourish, warrior, slaughter,
declare, feast, propose,

Beowulf

1. To explore the themes of a text
2. To explore the vocabulary of a text
3. To use a range of subordinating conjunctions

SC:
Use a range of subordinating conjunctions
Use repetition and power of three

4. To address the reader

5. To show character through dialogue
6. To use precise expanded noun phrases
7. To show character through dialogue

SC:
Use a range of subordinating conjunctions
Show character through dialogue
Precise expanded noun phrases
Use repetition and power of three

8 & 9. To retell a narrative

10. To use precise expanded noun phrases
11. To use subordinating conjunctions
12. To show character through dialogue
13. To plan a narrative

SC:
Use a range of subordinating conjunctions
Show character through dialogue
Precise expanded noun phrases
Use repetition and power of three

14 & 15. To invent a narrative

1. Theme: Loyalty. Small discussion groups looking at pictures and quotations and using a consensus circle. Establish the theme is loyalty. What does loyalty mean? Why are people loyal? What can you be loyal to? An idea, a person, a place.
2. Watch video about Old English. Nouns: allies, foes, fiend, Verbs: prosper, confront, flourish, warrior, declare, feast, propose, Writing sentences using new vocabulary.
3. Model use of conjunctions grouping them by meaning– (although, even though, despite,) (as, while, once, before) (if). Recap use of the comma where the two sentences join if the conjunctions at the start of the sentence. Model examples and non-examples where the meaning is not correct or information is repeated e.g. Although he looked brave, everyone cheered. Extend HAPS by encouraging to use vocabulary from previous lesson. LAPs to focus on time conjunctions to show things happening at the same time as, while, once.
4. Re-read the opening of Beowulf. Talk about the fourth wall – where do they see this in films? What effect does it have? Share more modelled examples including legend texts. As a class discuss and magpie a few phrases from each. Focus on repetition for effect. Pupils write a warning to the reader about a scary story about to be told. HAPs need to consider the tone and could continue to begin the start of the story after further teacher modelling. Live model writing and word selection.
5. Recap speech punctuation. Explain they will be writing a boastful speech. What is a boast? Why might a hero boast? Practice boasting. Recap repetition and power of three. Think about movements while Beowulf makes the speech. Learners write a boastful speech by Beowulf to the king explaining why he is the best person to defeat Grendel.
6. Write a setting description. Explain that the setting can also include the audience or crowd. Discuss how the crowd might respond to Beowulf's claims (that he is the best warrior) They might cheer or heckle. Pupils write a setting description of the mead hall during and after Beowulf's speech. Model use of ENPs, especially those which use **of** and **that** to expand after the noun. Ensure that learners still include main verb of the sentence so it makes sense. Provide with word bank to build descriptive vocabulary.
7. Role play to show how historical king's move and speak. Recap use of speech punctuation. Explain that the King is more formal so in writing his response we need to use careful word choice. Look at examples and non-examples of formal tone. Pupils write and punctuate a speech from the king thanking Beowulf for coming.
8. Model how to box up Beowulf plan – 1) Description of the mead hall 2) Boastful speech from Beowulf 3) King's response. Live modelled writing.
9. Live modelled writing then finish extended write and edit.
10. Look at pictures of a different setting where Grendel's father could live. Model how to use prepositions e.g. between, where to expand noun phrases and make them more precise e.g. the place where he fell, the space between the trees. Ensure as ENPs lengthen that learners check they still include a verb so it is a sentence. E.g. He hid in the small dark space between the trees. Then look at a picture of a battle scene. Explain that in the battle scene you need some shorter sentences to build up the action so model how expanded noun phrases will generally be shorter but more precise so you use less words e.g. the bulging shoulder. Provide with word bank to build descriptive vocabulary.
11. Recap subordinating conjunctions grouping them by meaning– (although, even though, despite,) (as, while, once, before) (if). Recap use of the comma. Model examples and non-examples. Watch a battle scene (e.g. Narnia) and write a paragraph using subordinating conjunctions and expanded noun phrases from previous day.
12. Model speech punctuation. Recap rules for split speech. What might a hero say to motivate his men before going into battle? Watch motivating film speech. Learners practise writing about Beowulf rousing his men.
13. Provide planning structure (Setting description and building tension, Reach Grendel's father's location, Action! Describe the fight - detailed verb choices, Grendel's father died, Hero returns to Heorot) Practice oral retelling of plans
14. Live modelling of writing process. Learners write own version.

SC:

Use a range of subordinating conjunctions – If, as, although,

Use power of three and repetition

Listen and listen well little ones. You might be thinking this is a story from long, long ago, a story that doesn't affect you, a story that you can ignore, but you are wrong. Before we continue, I suggest you think it through. If you're likely to get frightened, you should most certainly go to bed immediately. Please don't let this story fall into the wrong hands, as I fear it will send a shiver down the spine of the youngest children. It may even stop them from sleeping at night. Although the monster in it once roamed in a distant land, he was never captured and might still lurk in the shadows near you today. If you shiver when it's dark outside, you will tremble when you hear this tale. For although, this story is set in a far-off land, do not think that it could not happen in a neighbourhood like yours. The darkest monsters can travel the widest seas to bring terror into your hearts.

SC:

Use a range of subordinating conjunctions – If, once, before, while, as

Use power of three and repetition

Precise expanded noun phrases and relative clauses

Beowulf stepped onto the ancient wooden stage that creaked under his weight. Before he spoke, he looked across the capacious mead-hall. Friends and families gathered on oak benches in front of half-eaten food on china plates. The fire that lit up the hearth roared and gave a glow to the hall. The crowd of villagers were restless. Some stood to get a look of the newcomer while others turned their backs disinterested. As he spoke, some children cheered and clapped impressed by his feats and achievements. Others, more cynical, heckled Beowulf and questioned his abilities.

"I have killed the mighty lion of the Amazon," stated Beowulf as he puffed out his chest. "It stood twice as tall as the strongest warrior," he continued, "and was thought to be the fiercest creature that has ever lived." Beowulf seemed to stand even taller while he gazed across at his adoring audience. "I remember, its teeth were like razors and stank of the blood of its victims. Everyone was terrified by the beast but not I! I slaughtered it with my bare hands and barely had a scratch!" he bragged. The warrior clenched his fists, seeming to relive the memory in his head.

Hrothgar rose slowly to his feet. "You cannot imagine what joy you bring us in coming here to Heorot," he cried. "For me and for all of Denmark it is truly a blessed by your timely arrival. You shall, I promise you, be well rewarded for your kindness, your concern for us and for your great courage. We have been for twelve long years, twelve long, long years, a people in pains, with nothing but fear and hate in our hearts. Sadly my hall and hearth companions have been sorely dwindled in numbers by the ravages of this ruthless killer." Hrothgar removed his crown and finished, "Please put an end to this nightmare and we will forever be grateful of your heroic actions throughout Denmark."

SC:

Use a range of subordinating conjunctions – If, once, before, because

Show character through dialogue

Precise expanded noun phrases

Use repetition and power of three

Live modelling for 3rd extended write

Beowulf's warriors marched. They followed **their leader's bold footsteps** knowing that only he could kill **the dreaded monster of the night**. **Once** they reached the top of the mountain, they looked at their surroundings. They could see Heorot, far below in the morning mists but the sun had not yet lit **the dark shadows between the steep hillsides**. They were heading to the **most remote dark forest, which no one normally dared to approach**. **On they marched**, across the mountain tops. **On they marched**, not stopping for any rest. **On they marched**, towards their uncertain fate. The closer they got, the darker the clouds above them grew. **Once** they saw the first trees ahead of them, they stopped. **Because** he was their leader, Beowulf blew the horn. Birds scattered.

"Friends, allies, brothers in arms, we are here to serve our great king," Beowulf declared. "**If** we succeed, glory will be forever ours. **Our names will live on for eternity. Our names will be celebrated by our children. Our names will be engraved all over the walls of Hereot**. I have no fear. We will defeat this foe, as long as we believe in our strength. We must defeat him **if** we are to prosper and flourish." With that, he let out a battle cry so loud that it echoed down the valley and startled the few deer who lived in that perilous land. Towards the back of the band of men was Hranger, a skinny blacksmith. He cowered behind his comrades.

"I've heard he can.....de.....d...decapitate a person with just one flick of his beastly fist," he whispered to another soldier.

Before Hranger could express anymore doubt, Beowulf ran into the barren burnt land. His warriors followed, swords in the air.

Grendel's father, hearing movement, suddenly rose and confronted the band of fighters. A second later, the first blood was shed. Twelve men were instantly slaughtered. **Necks were snapped, joints popped and heads smashed to the ground**. However, Beowulf was lighter on his feet. He dodged **the fatal blows Grendel's father made**. He lunged with his spear outstretched, hoping to make contact, but the spear snapped. The father's tough hide was too thick for Beowulf's weapon. **As** Grendel's father attacked more men, their desperate screams could be heard from miles away. Beowulf stayed strong. He reached for a rock and started to climb **a splintered tree trunk behind Grendel's father**. Hranger, who was surprisingly still alive, saw Beowulf's plan and went to help him. He felt his courage surface as he grabbed Grendel's father's leg. Writhing and twisting, he pulled him towards the ground. The two of them rolled and wrestled. **Although** Hranger was small, he was tough. He held onto **the monster's bulging shoulder** and reached for his dagger. Once he finally wrenched himself free, Grendel's father felt weak. Hranger had located **a main artery** and was now covered in **the scarlet blood**. Beowulf made his move. As he leapt from the tree, he shattered the fiend's skull with a jagged rock. Grendel's father gave into his fate **as** he breathed his last breath. Beowulf and his remaining men grabbed his eyeball as a trophy to prove their strength in the battle.

SC:

Use a range of subordinating conjunctions – If, once, before, because

Show character through dialogue

Precise expanded noun phrases

Use repetition and power of three

Too challenging to model but HAPs could magpie some language from this version

Swirling mists covered the marshy moorlands. Beowulf and his war-ready warriors marched. They followed their leader's bold footsteps knowing that only he possessed the stealth, skill and strength to defeat the terror tyrant of the night. On summiting a mountain, they looked at their glorious surroundings. Heorot sat nestled in the valley below surrounded by morning mists. The sun had not yet crept into the dark shadows between the steep hillsides. Thirty lords he had recruited but if the truth were to be told: not many warriors were as quick to volunteer this time. Three valleys over sat their target. The nocturnal beast dwelled in a remote dark burnt forest where no life-loving creature dared to approach.

On they marched, across the mountain tops. On they marched, not stopping for the rain. On they marched, towards their uncertain fate. The closer they got the darker the clouds above them grew- from white to grey to black. The temperature plummeted and the wind picked up. Beowulf's heart quickened as he saw the festering forest of pain before him. Here he might meet his equal. He knew stories of how this beast stood twice the size of Grendel and three times the weight. Grendel's father had killed with the same blood-lust as his son and with ten times the ferocity. Because he was their leader, Beowulf reached for and blew the war-horn. Birds scattered. "Friends, brothers in arms, we are here to serve our great king," he began. "If we succeed, glory will be forever ours. Our names will live on for eternity. Our battle-stories will be retold by our children and our children's children. I have no fear. We will defeat this monster." With that, he let out a battle cry so loud that it echoed down the valley and startled the few deer who dared to inhabit the perilous land. Towards the back of the band of thirty was Hranger, a skinny blacksmith. He had seen more days in the open fields of the Danish countryside than of battle. He cowered behind his comrades. "I've heard he can.....de.....d... decapitate a person with just one flick of his beastly fist," he whispered to another soldier.

Before Hranger could express anymore doubt, Beowulf ran into the barren burnt land. His warriors followed, swords aloft. Grendel's father, hearing movement, suddenly rose to his complete height and started towards the band of fighters.

It was not long before blood was shed. Twelve of his best men were slaughtered. Necks were snapped, joints popped and heads smashed to the ground. Beowulf, however, was lighter on his feet. He could dodge the fatal blows Grendel's father made. He lunged with his spear outstretched hoping to make contact but the spear snapped off. His tough hide was too much for Beowulf's weapon. Five more warriors died amongst the charcoal trees and their screams could be heard from miles away. Beowulf was undeterred. He reached for a rock and started to climb a splintered tree trunk which loomed behind Grendel's father. Hranger, who was surprisingly still alive, saw Beowulf's plan and sought to help him. He felt his courage surface as he grabbed Grendel's father's leg. Writhing and twisting he pulled him towards the ground. The two of them rolled and wrestled. Hranger, although slight, was tough. He held onto the bulging shoulder and reached for his dagger. Wrenching himself away, Grendel's father felt suddenly weakened. Hranger had located a main artery and now was covered in the scarlet juice. With this confusion, Beowulf made his move. Leaping from the tree, with a jagged rock he shattered Grendel's father's skull. Broken and bloody Grendel's father gave into his fate. Death came to him swiftly as he breathed his last breath.

Beowulf and his remaining band of warriors each took a piece of his head-case as a trophy to prove their strength in the battle to free the Danish lands of fear.