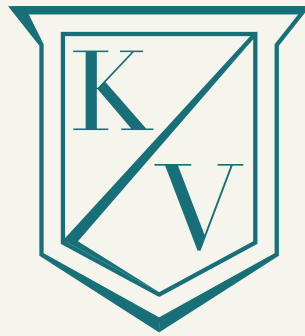


Heroes Who Inspire



# TEACHER'S NOTES

Beowulf

## Beowulf — Introduction

The purpose of this pack is to reaffirm and develop pupils' knowledge and understandings of the character virtues, with particular reference to the virtue of **courage**.

To accompany these **Teacher's Notes**, **Beowulf – The Story**, and **Beowulf – Resources for Pupils** are downloadable via the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues website ([www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources)).

The following supporting documents are also provided online:

- **Knightly Virtues Introduction Materials**
- **Virtues Toolkit** including activities on the following virtues: Self-Discipline, Honesty, Love, Gratitude, Justice, Courage, Service, Humility
- **Beowulf PowerPoint**
- **Other stories in the programme** including Gareth and Lynette, El Cid, Merchant of Venice, Robin Hood, Rosa Parks, Don Quixote, Joan of Arc and Anne Frank

### Background Information for Teachers

This information is to supplement the Beowulf PowerPoint which provides an introduction to the story, available online ([www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources)).

The saga (a Norse tale) of Beowulf was written in Anglo Saxon times between the 8th and 11th centuries. Although it was written in Old English, it is a story about Vikings. Vikings were Norse seafarers, who spoke the Old Norse language. During those centuries, the Vikings traded from their Scandinavian homelands across wide areas of northern and central Europe, as well as European Russia, North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and North America. The Vikings also raided and settled in cities in England and Ireland. The north and east of England was ruled under Dane Law for nearly three hundred years.

Instead of being read by individuals, sagas were usually told by storytellers. Often, groups of friends would gather at night, by firelight, and listen and learn about the historic tales of their lands.

# Beowulf — Lesson Plan

**Title: Beowulf – Courage**

**Year Group 5/6**

Curriculum links: Literacy, History

## Learning Objectives

1. To understand what the virtue of courage means in the story of Beowulf;
2. To accurately identify vocabulary which illustrate the virtue of courage from the story of Beowulf;
3. To demonstrate sustained attention to an extended narrative and answer relevant questions accurately;
4. To be able to accurately retrieve information from the narrative which illustrates an answer or point of view.

## Learning Outcomes

1. To be able to identify and describe the virtue of courage;
2. To begin to be able to relate the virtue of courage to our own lives today.

## Resources

Related Knightly Virtues resources, including the Virtues Toolkit, are available via [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources)

**Provided:** Beowulf narrative, Beowulf Teacher's Notes, Beowulf Resources for Pupils.

**Not Provided:** Interactive White Board, Flipchart, Pens

## Introduction (15mins)

Introduce/reaffirm the meaning of character and virtue (Knightly Virtues Introduction PowerPoint,). Introduce the Knightly Virtues definition of courage (Virtues Toolkit). Establish open space for pupil engagement principles.

## The Story (30-35mins)

Read the story to pupils. Provide pupils with the opportunity to clarify understanding. Provide pupils with access to the Glossary for reference to character names and new vocabulary.

## Activity (15-20mins)

Virtue in Focus: Courage

Ask the pupils to write a letter home from Beowulf describing either the fight with Grendel, or the battle with the she-hag. Encourage pupils to think about how Beowulf may have felt at this point in the story.

## Plenary (15mins)

Bring the group together to discuss how they think Beowulf felt during the fight with Grendel, and the battle with the she-hag. Select a virtue from the Virtues Toolkit to focus on for the Homework Task. show and read the virtue card (available in the Virtues Toolkit) and introduce the homework task.

## Progression/Homework

Virtue in Focus: Virtues Toolkit

Relevant task (as selected) from the Virtues Toolkit found online at [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/knightlyvirtuesresources)