

Beowulf – Exploring the story through Drama

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| <p>Still Image /Tableau</p> | <p><i>What do we think Grendel might have been like?</i> In turn, children enter the centre of a circle, adding themselves to a single, collective still image of the monster, Grendel. As each person gets into position, they speak a descriptive sentence, (as the part of the monster), e.g. ‘I am Grendel’s skin. I am rough and scaly.’</p> |
| <p>Rumours</p> | <p><i>What do the Danes say about Grendel?</i> Every Dane in the vicinity has heard or seen something of Grendel over the last 12 years (or imagines they have). In role as Danes, the children move around, creating, gathering and sharing tales, gossip and rumours about Grendel.</p> |
| <p>Freeze/Frame Eavesdropping</p> | <p>The scene of Danes chatting is now frozen, (freeze frame) and the teacher passes through the scene. Whoever the teacher passes nearby, thaws and speaks aloud, so that all can hear snippets of the ‘overheard conversations’. Once the teacher has passed by, the speakers stop talking and freeze again.</p> |
| <p>Conscience Alley Teacher in Role</p> | <p><i>Should Beowulf sail to Denmark and try to kill Grendel?</i> The class makes two lines, facing each other. The teacher as Beowulf walks between the lines. Those in one line try to persuade Beowulf to go and kill Grendel, whereas those on the other line try to persuade him not to go.</p> |
| <p>Collective Role Improvisation</p> | <p><i>What is the conversation between Beowulf and Hrothgar when Beowulf arrives?</i> 2 groups (of about 6), take on the roles of Hrothgar and Beowulf. No child may speak twice in a row. They improvise their meeting, as either Beowulf or Hrothgar.</p> |
| <p>Talking objects</p> | <p><i>What can be/has been/will be seen, inside the great Mead Hall of Heriot?</i> It is night-time. Several children individually enter the Hall and place themselves as an inanimate object, e.g. armour, table, bench, chair, goblet, tapestry, etc. They enter the space and state what object they are. They also offer a viewpoint about the chances of Beowulf succeeding this night.</p> |
| <p>Teacher in Role</p> | <p>As Beowulf, the teacher moves around the hall and the objects speak directly now to Beowulf as he passes. The moment, is just before Grendel is heard and seen.</p> |
| <p>Sensing the moment</p> | <p>Some children (as Geats) hide amongst the objects and wait in hiding for Grendel. They speak aloud what they can see, hear, smell and touch (giving a short description), e.g. ‘I can see the candles burning</p> |

