Part 17

1. What did Hengest do that winter while living with Finn?

2. Why do the soldiers kidnap and take Finn’s wife with them on their return?

3. Where is Unferth? Why is he there?

4. Summarize Welthow’s toast to Hrothgar.

5. Who are Hrethric and Hrothmund? Who will care for them if their father dies?

Part 18

6. What additional gifts are given to Beowulf at the beginning of this section?

7. Beowulf’s necklace is compared to what other necklace? Describe it, and its history.

8. What will Welthow “remember” about Beowulf, and what about him is “too great to forget”?

9. What is the custom of the Danish soldiers (when it comes to sleep)?

Part 19

10. What is the “fate” hanging over Herot that night?

11. What drove Grendel’s mother from her den that night?

12. Why are the soldiers ultimately able to run her out of the hall?

13. Who is the person that Grendel’s mother takes with her for “dinner” on her way out of Herot?

14. Why had Beowulf and the other Geats not defended Herot that night?
15. What else did Grendel’s mother take with her?

Part 20

16. Where had Hrothgar heard of Grendel’s mother before? Summarize the stories he’d heard.

17. What is unique about the lake where Grendel and his mother live?

18. What does Hrothgar ask Beowulf to do?

Part 21

19. According to Beowulf, what is better to do than mourn our friends forever?

20. What is “the noblest of all goals”?

21. What was on the cliff above the lake?

22. What does Beowulf kill in the lake?

23. As he prepares to descend into the lake, what does Beowulf know will save his life? How will it do that?

24. What unlikely person provides Beowulf with a sword? What is the sword called? What was unique about every person who had ever carried the sword?

Part 22

25. What does Beowulf ask of Hrothgar, should he die in the battle with Grendel’s mother?

26. What should be done with the gifts given to Beowulf in the event of his death?

27. Describe the encounters with the she-wolf on his descent into the lake.

28. Where does he find himself when he had reached the bottom of the lake?

29. What items fail Beowulf in the fight with Grendel’s mother? What item (again) saves his life?