Part 38

1. What is the “moral” found in lines 2764-2766? How does it contradict much of the epic to this point?

2. After Wiglaf gathers up all the gold and jewels he can carry, who does the dying Beowulf thank for the treasure?

3. Contrast lines 2764-2766 and lines 2794-2799. What might be the larger message behind the contradiction?

4. To whom does Beowulf leave his kingdom? What does he ask the Geats to do after his death?

5. What does Beowulf lament with his dying words?

Part 39

6. Why is Wiglaf angry with his fellow soldiers?

7. In lines 2875-2882, Wiglaf gives Beowulf all the glory of the final battle. Do you think this was the honorable thing to do, or should he have been honest about the battle, since he was now king?

8. What does Wiglaf say is left in life for those soldiers? What would be better for them?

Part 40

9. What does the messenger tell the waiting Geats will most likely happen when news of Beowulf’s death spreads?

10. Name the two tribes the messenger says the Geats have to fear, and list why:
   a.
   b.
Part 41

11. In lines 3010-3014, the messenger tells the Geats that the funeral pyre should “melt more than his bones, more than his share of treasure.” What does he mean?

12. What is the messenger’s description of what Geatland will be like without Beowulf?

13. What was the spell that was cast on the dragon’s hoard? What does this tell us about Beowulf—what is the allusion in this passage?

Part 42

14. In lines 3065-3068, we are told that Beowulf did not know that he was going to die in battle with the dragon. Is this true? How do we know? Why would the narrator make the point to tell us this now, after Beowulf’s death?

15. What are Beowulf’s tower and tomb meant to be a symbol of?

11. Where does Wiglaf take the soldiers?

12. In line 3128, we are told that the Geats had no shame in gathering up all the treasure they could carry and taking it with them. What does this tell us about the Geats, in light of the contradiction at the beginning of part 38?

13. What do they do with the dragon?

Part 43

14. What does the old woman foresee as Beowulf’s body is burning?

15. How long does it take for the Geats to build the tower?

16. What do the Geats do with the treasure they take from the dragon’s den? Keeping the “contradiction” from the beginning of part 38 in mind, what light does this shed on the Geats? Are they “good guys” or “bad guys”?