

Answers

1. Who is the text about and what nationality was he?
The text is about the hero Beowulf. He was Swedish.
2. Name the region in which he lived.
Beowulf was prince of the Geats.
3. In the text, what are the sub-headings for?
The sub-headings tell you what the next section of the text is about.
4. Look at the poem in the text box; what are the unusual shaped brackets { } for? Where might you have seen them before?
The brackets give more information about what is happening in the poem. They are also used for directions and to give more information in plays.
5. Look at the poem in the text box. Can you find and record words which tell you when the monster arrived at the King's hall and when he returned to his lair?
The monster arrived at the King's hall, 'when the sun was sunken' and returned to his lair, 'In the dusk of the dawning, as the day was just breaking'.
6. Using clues from the text, what do you think the word 'banquet' and 'slumber' mean?
A banquet is a grand meal and slumber means to sleep.
7. If the poem wasn't written down for many years, how did minstrels remember it? How much can you remember of the verse in the text box?
Minstrels repeated the poem so many times that they memorised it. Various answers.
8. How can historians tell us how old something is by looking at the words? Hint –think about the vocabulary that is written down?
The words that people use change over time, so historians can tell when they were first used. Just like today, some words come in and out of fashion.
9. From the poem in the text box, find and record examples of words that tell you the order of some of the events.
Words that order events are: eventually, at last and 50 years later.
10. How do you think historians knew that two people wrote the poem down?
Historians recognised the handwriting of the two scribes that wrote the poem down.
11. Find and copy part of the text that interests you. Explain why you chose that part.
Various answers that could include:
Thirty of thanemen; thence he departed Leaping and laughing, his lair to return to, I like the thought that the monster could drag 30 warriors off to his lair at one time. He must have been big and strong and fierce to kill and take away that number of soldiers without being challenged himself.