

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

# For this lesson, you will need:

- ▶ Pen/pencil
- ▶ Lined paper

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LO: To be able to write extended sentences using commas.

- ▶ I understand when to use a comma.
- ▶ I can use a comma in a list.
- ▶ I can use a comma to separate clauses.

# How to use commas in our writing

- ▶ Commas can sometimes be tricky to understand. Let's watch this video so that we can understand three main uses for commas that we will use today in our work.
- ▶ [https://youtu.be/QE\\_2COmz0tE](https://youtu.be/QE_2COmz0tE)

# BEOWULF

AND THE

# SEA-HAG



What clues can we see that might hint what is about to happen?

As the night shadows fell over Heorot, Hrothgar and his queen escorted Beowulf and all the Geatish heroes to their beds, leaving the great mead-hall in the care of the thanes of Denmark. They cleared away the benches and spread the floor with beds and bolsters and, as so often they had done before, made a dormitory of the great hall. Out of habit these warriors kept their weapons near to hand, always ready for war, their shields and hand-swords at their sides, and, on the benches nearby, their mail-coats, their mighty helmets and spears. But not one of them expected any attack that night. Safe in their hall, so they thought, they fell asleep at once and slept soundly. It was a sleep they would pay for dearly and soon.

For Grendel had a mother, a murderous hag, as hideous a monster as her fiend of a son. Now she was a bereaved mother out

for revenge, maddened by her loss, and she would be savage in her grief. With vengeance brimming in her soul she came to Heorot in the dead of that night, all the Danish lords fast asleep inside, each lost in his dreams. How quickly were these dreams turned into a sudden nightmare! She may not have had the monster strength of her son, but she was thirsting for blood as she came in amongst them and powerful in her fury. The thanes quickly roused themselves from their slumbers, sprang at once to arms to fight her off, but they were not quick enough. She tore down Grendel's arm, that hideous trophy, but so precious to her. She snatched up the sleeping Ashhere, Hrothgar's most favourite lord, and then, seeing so many swords raised against her, made her escape. She had to be satisfied with this one kill. It was revenge enough for her.

# How has the author used comma's on page 68?

I can see:

- ▶ Fronted adverbials punctuated with a comma
- ▶ To separate information that isn't so important in a sentence.
- ▶ Commas used in a list.

As the night shadows fell over Heorot, Hrothgar and his queen escorted Beowulf and all the Geatish heroes to their beds, leaving the great mead-hall in the care of the thanes of Denmark. They cleared away the benches and spread the floor with beds and bolsters and, as so often they had done before, made a dormitory of the great hall. Out of habit these warriors kept their weapons near to hand, always ready for war, their shields and hand-swords at their sides, and, on the benches nearby, their mail-coats, their mighty helmets and spears. But not one of them expected any attack that night. Safe in their hall, so they thought, they fell asleep at once and slept soundly. It was a sleep they would pay for dearly and soon.

For Grendel had a mother, a murderous hag, as hideous a monster as her fiend of a son. Now she was a bereaved mother out

# How has the author used comma's on page 69?

I can see:

- ▶ To separate information that isn't so important in a sentence.
- ▶ Commas used in a list.
- ▶ A comma used to join two complete sentences and followed by a connecting word (FANBOYS).



for revenge, maddened by her loss, and she would be savage in her grief. With vengeance brimming in her soul she came to Heorot in the dead of that night, all the Danish lords fast asleep inside, each lost in his dreams. How quickly were these dreams turned into a sudden nightmare! She may not have had the monster strength of her son, but she was thirsting for blood as she came in amongst them and powerful in her fury. The thanes quickly roused themselves from their slumbers, sprang at once to arms to fight her off, but they were not quick enough. She tore down Grendel's arm, that hideous trophy, but so precious to her. She snatched up the sleeping Ashhere, Hrothgar's most favourite lord, and then, seeing so many swords raised against her, made her escape. She had to be satisfied with this one kill. It was revenge enough for her.

Away over the high moors she went in the darkness, clutching in her fierce embrace the bleeding Ashhere, found her way back to her distant fen to gorge herself on his flesh. How sweet was the taste of vengeance to this horrible hag.

Meanwhile all Heorot was in uproar. Swiftly summoned to the hall Hrothgar heard the dreaded news that Ashhere was dead and gone, his beloved friend murdered. He called at once for Beowulf. Who else would he turn to? Ashhere could not be saved, not now. Not even Beowulf, that victory-blest Geat could do that, but if anyone could destroy this demon-mother it was him.

The wise old king, distraught with sadness, opened his word-hoard, and spoke his heart to the Geatish prince.

“Ashhere was my hearth-companion, my best and oldest friend. Side by side we stood

in many a bloody battle, striking for our lives, for each other. And now he's dead, no more than a meal-feast for Grendel's blood-lusting mother. Last night for us you killed her son, tore the life out of him, and now she has had her grim revenge. I do not know and I cannot tell where she is gone to, but country people have often told stories of two such ogres haunting the high moors and mists. One of them it was said was more woman in shape than man, a twisted monster-woman, they said, a giant of a creature, demonic and unnatural. The other they called Grendel, that fiend from hell you so bravely destroyed.

# Activity:

- ▶ You are going to describe Beowulf's reaction to what the king is saying. You must use commas in your sentences.
- ▶ **Mild** - Use **commas to list** how Beowulf reacts. For example: Beowulf stood abruptly at what King Hrothgar was saying. He grabbed his sharp sword, strong shield, and his heroic helmet...
- ▶ **Spicy** - Use **commas to list** how Beowulf reacts **and as a fronted adverbial**. For example: As soon as the King finished his plea, Beowulf grabbed his sharp sword, strong shield, and his heroic helmet...
- ▶ **Hot** - Use **commas to list**, for a **fronted adverbial** and to **separate information** that is not important but adds more detail. For example: As soon as the King finished his plea, Beowulf grabbed his sharp sword, strong shield, and his heroic helmet. The Geatish Prince, who was courageous enough to defeat Grendel, set off out of the hall to kill the disgusting sea-hag.

**Challenge for everyone: Use verbs in your writing! What different actions are Beowulf and his warriors doing?**