1. What is the difference in focus between *Beowulf* and *Grendel*?
2. What is an *arbiter*?
3. How old are the philosophies/worldviews found in *Grendel*?
4. What is the theory of the world presented in *Grendel*? What examples from the text reveal this? (Give quotes.)
5. In Chapter 2, what worldview does Grendel first adopt? Name and explain this worldview. Give quotes that show Grendel embraces it.
6. Who is the Shaper?
7. How does he challenge Grendel’s first worldview?
8. What is a *natureóno*t? What does vilification mean? What are his mixed reactions to this role in the story?
9. What worldview does the dragon represent?
10. In Chpater 6, “Grendel is reborn but reborn into skepticism.” Explain.
11. What is Wealthow’s role?
12. In chapters 8 and 9 how is Grendel surprised by man’s insensitivity?
13. In Chapter 10 “Grendel develops a Nietzschean philosophy.” Explain.
14. Explain: "All order . . . is theoretical, unreal" is Grendel's explicit rejection of the dragon, the priests, and Shaper. Because "I alone exist," he feels that he must create his own order centered around himself and his perceptions of the world. He posits himself as the center of the world and arranges it accordingly: "For the world is divided, experience teaches, into two parts: things to be murdered, and things that would hinder the murder of things" (139). The ideas Grendel expresses of freedom, existence, and possessedness are all Sartre's ideas, all central to existentialism. In this chapter we can truly say that Grendel has become an existentialist. God (Shaper) is dead, and after his initial despair, Grendel has built a new world and new order without Him. Grendel's chosen essence, "absolute, final waste," does not seem very different from what it was beforeóthe important thing is that now he moves beyond a received definition of himself and defines the world in his own terms.” Who was Sartre?
15. Explain: “Beowulf beats Grendel against reality and turns him into an empiricist. Out of such contact comes poetry. Grendel can only understand that all knowledge, all truth, all art grows out of the contact with reality after he has been forced to give up his old philosophy. Grendel does not merely imagine the wall and posit that it is not-Grendel; he has his head smashed against it until he rejects everything but experience.”