

## Voices of the Epic Answer Key

### (Sample Responses)

1. **"Fate goes ever as fate must."**

- *Paraphrase:* Things will happen as destiny decides.
- *Meaning:* Shows the Anglo-Saxon belief in wyrd, or fate, as an unchangeable force.
- *Theme:* Fate and inevitability.

2. **"I shall win the gold by my courage, or else mortal combat, doom of battle, will bear your lord away."**

- *Paraphrase:* I will win treasure through bravery, or die fighting.
- *Meaning:* Beowulf values courage and glory, even at the risk of death.
- *Theme:* Heroism and mortality.

3. **"Grendel, who haunted the moors, the wild marshes, and made his home in a hell not hell but earth."**

- *Paraphrase:* Grendel lived in the swamps, a place like hell on earth.
- *Meaning:* Shows Grendel as both monstrous and connected to human fears of exile and isolation.
- *Theme:* Evil and the outsider.

4. **"So every man must yield the leasehold of his days."**

- *Paraphrase:* Every person must give up their life when their time ends.
- *Meaning:* Emphasizes the inevitability of death and the temporary nature of human life.
- *Theme:* Mortality.

5. **"Wiglaf spoke wise and fluent words: 'We swore that loyalty long ago.'"**

- *Paraphrase:* Wiglaf reminds the warriors they once promised loyalty.
- *Meaning:* Highlights the comitatus bond of loyalty between warrior and lord.
- *Theme:* Loyalty and duty.