

Name _____

Heroism Then and Now Answer Key

(Sample Responses)

Beowulf's Heroic Traits:

- Courage: He fights Grendel without weapons.
- Loyalty: He honors his alliance with Hrothgar.
- Sacrifice: He gives his life fighting the dragon.
- Fame-seeking: He wants glory and to be remembered.

Modern Heroic Traits:

- Courage: Firefighters rush into burning buildings.
- Loyalty/Duty: Soldiers protect their country.
- Sacrifice: Doctors risk health during pandemics.
- Service over fame: Many modern heroes act quietly without seeking glory.

Connections / Differences:

- Both Beowulf and modern heroes show courage, loyalty, and sacrifice.
- Beowulf's culture prized fame and lasting reputation, while modern heroism often values service and humility.
- The shift shows how cultural values shape what kind of hero is celebrated.

Sample Conclusion:

Beowulf would still be admired today for his bravery and sacrifice, but his pursuit of fame might feel less important in a culture that values humility. Modern people might respect him as a warrior but see greater heroism in everyday acts of selflessness.