

Student Packet

Grades 9–12

# Beowulf

Seamus Heaney, translator

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## Student Packet

Written by  
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**Contains masters for:** 3 Prereading Activities  
3 Vocabulary Activities  
1 Complete Study Guide  
5 Literary Analysis Activities  
3 Comprehension Activities  
3 Unit Quizzes  
2 Final Tests (two levels)  
**PLUS** Detailed Answer Key

### Note

The new verse translation paperback, published by W.W. Norton & Company, © 2000 by Seamus Heaney, was used to prepare this guide. The page references may differ in other editions.

**Please note:** This novel unit deals with sensitive, mature issues. Parts may contain descriptions of violence. Please assess the appropriateness of this book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with them.

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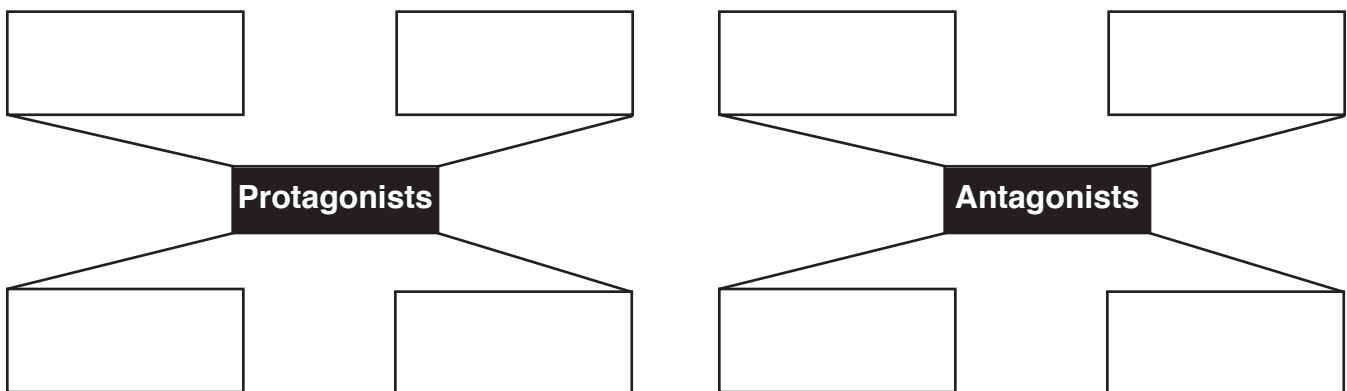
Activity #3 • Protagonist/Antagonist  
Use Before and During Reading

The main character in a story is called the **protagonist**. Sometimes we call the protagonist the hero or heroine (the good person). The character who opposes the hero in a story is called the **antagonist**. Sometimes we call the antagonist the villain (the bad person).

**Directions:** Think about stories you have read. Who were some of the protagonists (heroes/heroines) in these stories? Who were the antagonists (villains)? List some of the protagonists and antagonists and the stories in which they appeared.

Protagonists	Antagonists	Story

Complete the chart below by listing some common characteristics of protagonists and antagonists. For example, a protagonist is often brave. An antagonist may be cunning or cruel. Sometimes the antagonist is not a person, but a belief or custom.



As you read *Beowulf*, decide who is the protagonist and who or what is the antagonist. Notice their characteristics and compare/contrast them to the characters you listed in the chart above.