

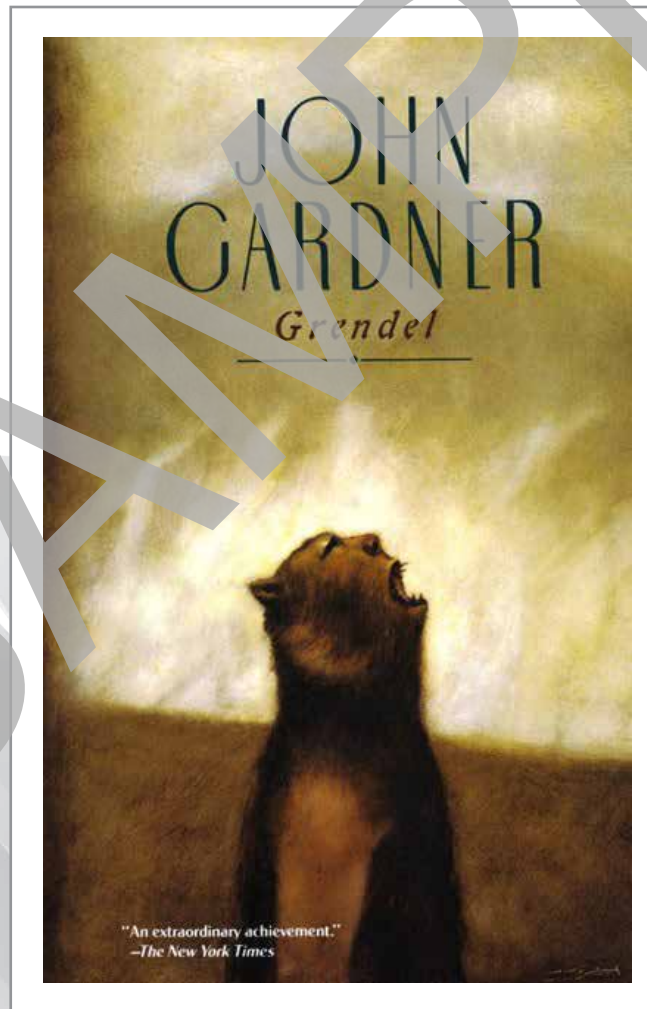


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

Grendel

John Gardner



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

Grendel

John Gardner

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NOTE:

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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Note to the Teacher

Selected activities, quizzes, and test questions in this Novel Units® Student Packet are labeled with the following reading/language arts skills for quick reference. These skills can be found above quiz/test questions or sections and in the activity headings.

Basic Understanding: The student will demonstrate a basic understanding of written texts. The student will:

- use a text's structure or other sources to locate and recall information (Locate Information)
- determine main idea and identify relevant facts and details (Main Idea and Details)
- use prior knowledge and experience to comprehend and bring meaning to a text (Prior Knowledge)
- summarize major ideas in a text (Summarize Major Ideas)

Literary Elements: The student will apply knowledge of literary elements to understand written texts. The student will:

- analyze characters from a story (Character Analysis)
- analyze conflict and problem resolution (Conflict/Resolution)
- recognize and interpret literary devices (flashback, foreshadowing, symbolism, simile, metaphor, etc.) (Literary Devices)
- consider characters' points of view (Point of View)
- recognize and analyze a story's setting (Setting)
- understand and explain themes in a text (Theme)

Analyze Written Texts: The student will use a variety of strategies to analyze written texts. The student will:

- identify the author's purpose (Author's Purpose)
- identify cause and effect relationships in a text (Cause/Effect)
- identify characteristics representative of a given genre (Genre)
- interpret information given in a text (Interpret Text)
- make and verify predictions with information from a text (Predictions)
- sequence events in chronological order (Sequencing)
- identify and use multiple text formats (Text Format)
- follow written directions and write directions for others to follow (Follow/Write Directions)

Critical Thinking: The student will apply critical-thinking skills to analyze written texts. The student will:

- write and complete analogies (Analogies)
- find similarities and differences throughout a text (Compare/Contrast)
- draw conclusions from information given (Drawing Conclusions)
- make and explain inferences (Inferences)
- respond to texts by making connections and observations (Making Connections)
- recognize and identify the mood of a text (Mood)
- recognize an author's style and how it affects a text (Style)
- support responses by referring to relevant aspects of a text (Support Responses)
- recognize and identify the author's tone (Tone)
- write to entertain, such as through humorous poetry or short stories (Write to Entertain)
- write to express ideas (Write to Express)
- write to inform (Write to Inform)
- write to persuade (Write to Persuade)
- demonstrate understanding by creating visual images based on text descriptions (Visualizing)
- practice math skills as they relate to a text (Math Skills)

Name _____

Anticipatory Response

Directions: Prepare for reading *Grendel* by briefly answering the following questions.

1. Who is the author? To whom does he dedicate the novel?

2. What do you think the cover indicates about the content of the novel?

3. Read the blurbs on the back cover, and make a prediction about the novel.

4. Read the introductory poem, and explain your interpretation.

5. Look at the illustrations for each chapter, and explain what you think they represent.

6. What prior knowledge, if any, do you have about the novel?

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. Starred items indicate thought or opinion questions. Use your answers in class discussions, for writing assignments, and to review for tests.

Chapter 1

1. During what season of the year does Grendel's tale begin?
- *2. What animal does Grendel encounter? How do they react to each other? Why do you think Grendel reacts as he does?
- *3. Identify one kenning with which Grendel describes himself. How does he feel about himself? Why do you think he feels this way?
4. What effect does the coming of spring have on Grendel?
5. Why does Grendel think his mother stays in their stinking cave?
6. For how many years has Grendel been coming to Hrothgar's meadhall? For what purpose does he come?
- *7. Briefly describe the aftermath of the attack for Grendel and for the Danes. How would you explain Grendel's reaction?
- *8. **Prediction:** What do you think Grendel will do next?

Chapter 2

- *1. Identify three things Grendel reveals about his childhood. Explain whether or not you think he was a happy child.
2. How does Grendel discover the world outside his cave? What effect does this have on him?
3. How does Grendel feel about his mother?
4. What causes Grendel's encounter with the bull? How does he react? How does it end?
- *5. What leads to Grendel's first encounter with men? How does Grendel react? How do the men treat him? How do you think this could have ended differently?
6. For what primary reason does Grendel fear men?
7. How does Grendel escape the men?
- *8. **Prediction:** What effect will Grendel's encounter with the men have on him?

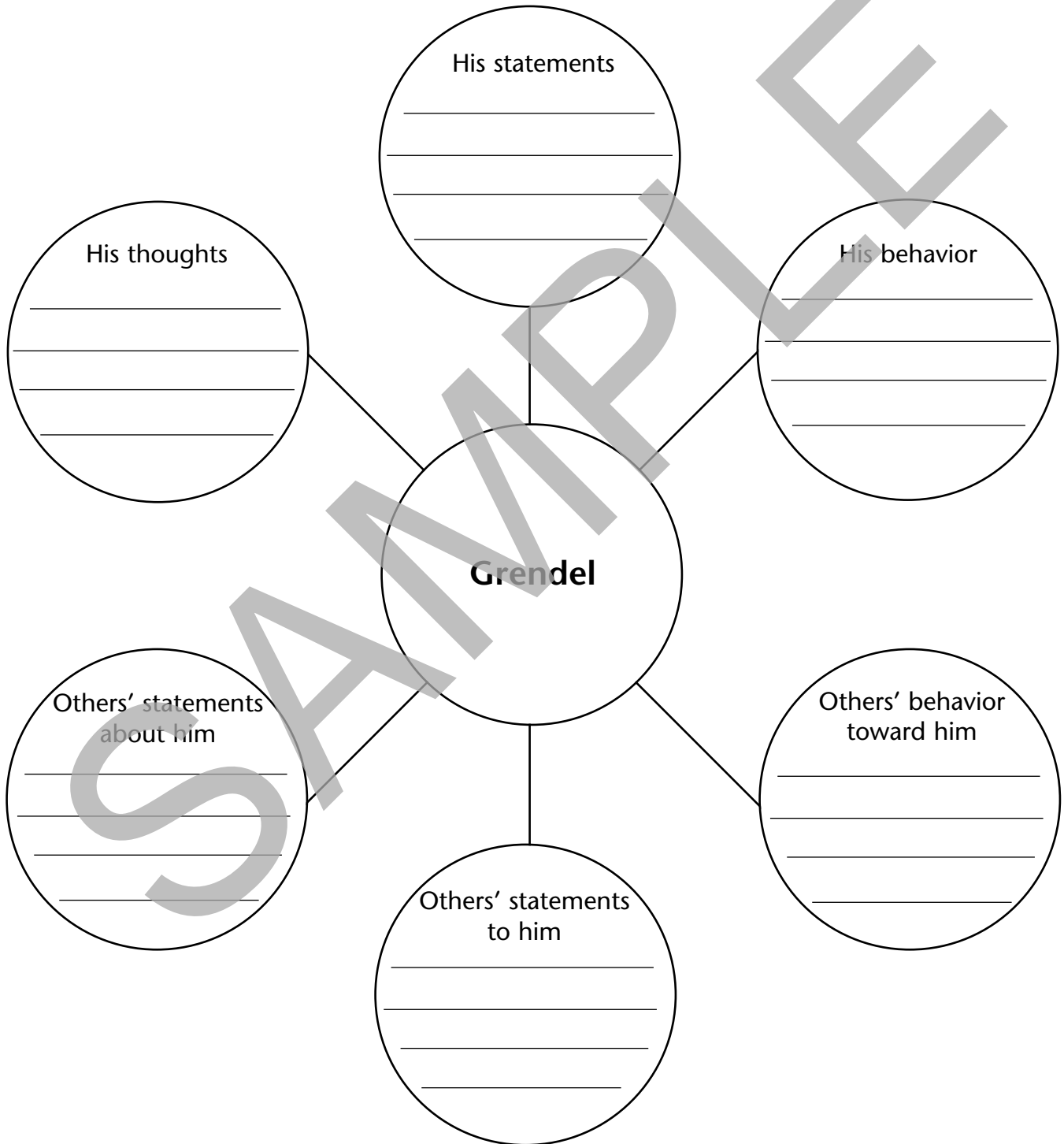
Chapter 3

1. What does Grendel observe in various stages of the conflict between men in the beginning?
- *2. Identify two changes as the wars intensify. How does Grendel react to the wars? Why do you think he does so?

Name _____

Character Web

Directions: Complete the attribute web below by filling in information specific to Grendel.



Name _____

Character Analysis Blocks

Directions: Complete the following chart for Wealtheow.

<i>Who is the character?</i>			
<i>What does the character do?</i>		<i>Why does she do it?</i>	
<i>What, if anything, is significant about the character's name?</i>	<i>What is the nature of this character's actions? (reactive, active, important, consequential, secondary)</i>	<i>What is the significance of the novel's time and place to the character?</i>	
<i>What is unusual or important about the character?</i>	<i>How does the character change in the story?</i>	<i>Does the character remind you of another character from another book? Who?</i>	<i>Do you know anyone similar to this character?</i>