

Beowulf – college essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Throughout history the majority of humans have always suffered through a lack of self worth, and they search to fill this emptiness through the security of a strong, confident, and fearless hero to whom they can call upon for support in times of need.

Beowulf was that hero in both the Epic poem Beowulf and the novel Greened. Although the novel Greened and the epic poem Beowulf tell the same basic story, Beowulf is a much better piece of literary work.

Both stories tell the same battle between Beowulf and Greened. They also both use alliteration. In Beowulf the author used alliterations like "filled with the food from the feast" and "grim and greedy Greened".

In Greened the author used alliterations such as "up from his swampland, sliding silently". Kennings are included in both stories, in Beowulf "battle sweat" meaning "blood" is an example and in Greened "Shepherd of evil" is used. Each of the stories has a similar, formal style of writing.

Beowulf is an epic poem that was written by an unknown Anglo Saxon author in the eighth century while Greened is a novel written by the American author John Gardner in the year 1971. The language of Beowulf is very rich and original with phrases like "Nor have I seen a mightier man-at-arms on this earth than the one standing here: unless I am mistaken, he is truly noble. This is no mere hanger-on in a hero's armor".

Greened's language is not of the same quality, it uses clichés such as "blind as a bat".

First person omniscient in which the narrator is a character in the story, but also knows the thoughts and feelings of all the other characters is used in Beowulf. Greened goes a slightly different direction being told in first person, which is a mode where a story is narrated by one character at a time, speaking for and about themselves. In Beowulf, Greened is characterized as a vicious man eating monster although in Greened He is interpreted as a tender, softhearted creature.

The novel Greened closes on the fight with Beowulf even though the poem continues with two additional battles. I believe Beowulf is by far the more enjoyable literary work; It has a more realistic view of Greened.

The novel portrays Greened as a sympathetic and emotional animal which is inconsistent with his motivations in the poem. Inaccuracies are strewn throughout the novel including the author's use of the concept of "crackpot" which TLD even exist until the twentieth century. Beowulf isn't better just because Greened is inadequate; it gives an enjoyable reading experience.

An example of Beowulf greatness is that it contains lots of pagan themes, but there are obvious Christian elements as well. Some may say Greened is the better piece of writing.

I can agree that Greened has a few decent aspects such as Greened struggles, in his mind, to understand where he belongs in a potentially pointless world; giving a relatable view to the story.