

Monsters lesson 02

literary background

for beowulf

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The Dark ages was an era that consisted of change and warfare in England. The Celts were the first culture to inhabit England. Celts filled the land with the language of Celtic and the religion of Paganism. In 55 B. C the Romans decided to invade the land under Julius Caesar and succeeded. With the Romans in charge the change began by bringing Latin to the region and introducing Christianity.

Romans also brought civilization and new law by building new structures which were similar to those in Rome. These structures consisted of water which they learned how to drain, use for public sanitation, and clean drinking water. Barbarians (foreigners) were jealous of the Roman's system and tried to take over, so the Emperor decided to build a great wall around the land and the wall worked for around 200 years. The Roman Empire was divided into two halves, western and eastern with two different Emperors.

With the fall of Rome in 410 A. D. Britannia was easy to take over without British soldiers to fight. Four Germanic tribes took over Britannia, with Angles in the Northeast, Saxons in the South, Jutes in the North but separate from Saxons, and Frisians just South of Saxons. These four tribes are known as Anglo-Saxons who occupied England from 410 A. D. to 797 A. D. During that time seven Sovereign Kingdoms were formed.

Vikings later called Normans were Scandinavian explorers, traders, and warriors. The Scandinavian's spoke dialects of German. Vikings invaded large parts of England in 797 A. D. and ruled until 1066 A. D. The literature during the dark ages main themes were about heroism and chivalry. Kings were also highly looked upon and they took care of their warriors. Also highly

written about during this time was the bond between the king's men which was the center of their political society.