

Beowulf

Literature



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

He ruled it well for fifty winters, grew old and wise until one began to dominate the dark, a dragon on the prowl from the steep vaults of a stone-roofed barrow

where he guarded a hoard; there was a hidden passage, unknown to men, but someone managed to enter by it and interfere with the heathen trove.

The above excerpt ushered in the 3rd battle waged by Beowulf in the eventful saga that spanned his life wherein he defeated three monsters – Grendel, Grendel’s mother and the dragon. It depicted how the struggle between the hero and the final monster began. As a literary device, it played the platform wherein the shift to a new chapter was achieved seamlessly. One can also get an idea here of the style and the manner by which the story themes were approached.

The affair with the dragon was an entirely new story; same as the way Grendel and his mother each were different plots to Beowulf’s adventures. With the excerpt, there was an effective transition that brought the dragon credibly embedded in the entire tale. What happened was that all the separate structures of the story were provided such opportunity so that they could be united and cohesive whole. Here, the excerpt functioned as part of the previous chapter’s ending and introduced the new narrative’s beginnings.

In addition, the excerpt also represented the way the story was presented. The elements were similar: an idyllic locale; an encroachment of danger; and, an opportunity for the hero to again rise and showcase his virtues, among others.

In a way, the excerpt typified the literature of warrior societies or those that depicted it. The elements were present, ideal human characteristics that are exhibited by the lord and values such as strong kinship. This latter aspect has been displayed in the case of the dragon. His affinity with his treasure also depicts that way people in the story exact revenge once their kin or their friends were killed.