Beowulf: The Boast

We are reading about the many adventures of Beowulf and the brave thanes among the Danes and the Geats.  We know that the Anglo-Saxons had no problem with letting the world know who they were, who their noble parents were, what great feats they had accomplished and what they planned to do.  This boasting was perfectly polite, even expected.

**Excerpt from *Beowulf*:**

“Hail!  King Hrothgar! I am Hygelac’s thane,

Hygelac’s kinsman.  Many a deed

Of honor and daring I’ve done in my youth…

The best of my people, prudent and brave,

Urged me, King Hrothgar, to seek you out;

They had in remembrance my courage and might.

Many had seen me come safe from the conflict,

Bloody from battle; five foes I bound

Of the giant kindred, and crushed their clan…

And now with Grendel, the fearful fiend,

Single-handed I’ll settle the strife.

**Task:**

Your assignment is to write a formal boast about yourself.  Tell us your deeds, who your daddy/mama are, what you plan to do, and how you’re not gonna take nothing from nobody.  Your accomplishments may be academic, athletic, musical, social, artistic, etc.  Lay aside your humility!  Remember, you’ll soon be applying for college or a job and may need to do a bit of boasting.

Being creative, include your genealogy, your acts of courage, your victories over enemies, and any other achievements and awards.  Punctuate your poem.  To end your boast, state your next great act.  The assignment, due Friday, September 25th, should be typed but may be neatly handwritten.

**Guidelines:**

Your boast must show your understanding of Anglo-Saxon poetry by following the Anglo-Saxon poetic format:

* No end-rhyme
* **Heavy** alliteration
* Anglo Saxon style diction
* At least two examples of an original kenning
* 15-20  lines

**Don’t reveal your  name in the boast.**

**Be sure to include your next great accomplishment.**

**Be sure to read the rubric to see what will be graded.**

**Brag away.  Bragging is a requirement on this assignment!!**

**Example:**

I, Donald of Trump, / from the land of the green-god

High on the Hudson, / son of a robber baron slumlord,

Who, generous to all his thanes, /  rewarded them lavishly

With subway tokens /  have come to wipe out the weak

              And establish high-halls of gold.

I have conquered condos / and toppled towers,

Erected edifices by shining seas.

Now / I will conquer the city of wind and Oprah

I will smite the descendents of Capone, /  start a new world order

With apprentices /  who grovel before my grim words:

“Fie on you!  / You’re fired!”

*Beowulf boast*  Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Hour\_\_\_\_\_

BOAST GRADING RUBRIC:

4points:  Contains 2 Kennings, no end rhyme          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4 points:  Contains 2 ex of heavy alliteration          \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4 points:  15 – 20 Lines Long                     \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_

4 points:  next great task                                         \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4 points:  poem written in Anglo Saxon style           \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                                                               Score:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_20\_\_\_