

# Novel Sheet

Title: Grendel

Author: John Gardner

General premise of story: (one or two sentences to highlight the main idea behind the work):

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## Part I

### Setting --

- What is the *setting* of the story?
- Does the setting change from one place to another? What, if any, effect does this have?
- Is the change of setting a necessary and natural one? How does it contribute to the development of the plot?

### Point of View—

- Identify the *point of view* used by the author (1<sup>st</sup> person p.o.v., 3<sup>rd</sup> person limited p.o.v., 3<sup>rd</sup> person omniscient p.o.v.).
- Discuss why the author may have chosen to use this point of view. Why was it effective?

## Part II

### Characters –

- Who is the *protagonist*?
- What are his or her chief weaknesses and strengths? How do these affect his or her motivation/actions?
- How does the protagonist change throughout the course of the story?
- Who is the *antagonist*? What traits define the antagonist?
- Who are the *minor characters*? What are the special functions of the minor characters?
- What characters function as *foils* and why?

## Part III

### Plot –

- What important details are listed in the *exposition* of the story (background information on characters, setting, relationships, etc. . .) before conflict is introduced?
- What is the *inciting incident* of the story (where conflict first occurs and disrupts the harmony of the story)?
- What key events constitute the *rising action* of the story (where conflict is developed)? Provide examples of both *internal and external conflict*.
- What is the pivotal point of utmost importance in the story (*climax*)?
- What events constitute the *falling action* of the story (where the effects of the climax are seen)?
- What is the *resolution* of the story?
- Is there *dramatic irony* present? What does it achieve?

## Part IV

### Theme

- What is the *theme* of the story? This should be stated as a *universal message* the author was trying to convey through the characters, plot, etc... **\*\*There may be more than one theme\*\***
- What parts of the story were crucial in developing that message? Be specific!! (Ex: certain characters / certain conflicts / etc....)

**ENGLISH IV – GRENDL**  
**THE MULTIMEDIA RESEARCH PROJECT**

**THE INTRODUCTION**

For your final *Grendel* assessment, you'll be investigating **one of two topics** via a multimedia research project.

A multimedia research project is more or less what it sounds like: a research-based exploration of a subject where the information is presented across multiple media. Such projects allow for rich, dynamic and aesthetically unique products.

Through this project you will be doing the following:

- Demonstrating an understanding of the novel *Grendel*
- Demonstrating an understanding of two central ideas from the book
- Applying the central ideas to their your life in some way\*
- Applying the central idea to the contemporary world in some way

Here are the two topics:

**EXISTENTIAL PHILOSOPHY**

- What is it? Where did it come from? What does it mean? What role did World War II have in shaping this idea?
- What are some major existential literary works – what are they about?
- How is existentialism present in *Grendel*? What commentary does the novel make regarding this philosophy?
- What evidence is there of existential ideas in your lives?\*
- Is existentialism a relevant philosophy in 2014? Why? Why not?

**MONSTROSITY**

- What is a monster, or monstrousness? Why do you suppose the definition is so nebulous?
- Over time, how has the concept of monstrousness changed? What role does society play in creating its own monsters?
- How is the concept of monstrousness depicted in *Grendel*? What other monsters are present in the novel? How are they different? Similar? Which is the worst?
- What monsters do you recognize in your own lives?\*

**THE MEDIA EXPECTATIONS**

You will need to incorporate **eight separate sections** that represent **no fewer than five different media** (this is a minimal requirement – feel free to do more) – and what do I mean by media? Here's a quick list of possibilities I came up with (don't feel limited to just these):

- Formal academic writing
- Excerpts from other peoples' work – music, poetry, fiction, journalism, film
  - Original works of art created by a member of your group
- Comics/illustrations
- Embedded video (either something you make or something you find online, or film clips. Or television clips.)
- Embedded audio clips (again, either something from some one else, or something you yourself record)
- Photography galleries
- Graphs/charts
- PowerPoint Slides
- An embedded Prezi

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\* Overall, you are creating a fabricated webpage on Word with a combination of at least five different media types and eight separate sections. This is a unique essay since it combines images, quotes from the novel, and writing.

- A blog post with fabricated comments thread
- External links
- Animation
- Information from primary sources – interviews, testimony, observations

Each section should make its own point, revealing something unique about your subject. As with any good essay, different parts **should all feel interrelated**, connected, as they investigate a clearly defined query. Along with your eight sections, be sure your work includes the following.

### THE REQUIREMENTS

Your finished product must include:

- Some sort of **table of contents** – some sort of navigation bar at the top or in the margin.
- A **short introductory paragraph** (approximately 300 words) containing formal academic writing (note this does not mean writing drained of wit and personality)
  - The only other writing required is whatever exposition you deem necessary to set up/explain your eight different sections. For example, don't include a random comic strip about existentialism without providing some context.
- Explicit **textual references to *Grendel*** with page citations
- **Work cited entries** at the bottom of every page
  - You must provide citations for *all* the media you incorporate into your project
  - As this is a *research*-based project, you must incorporate *only* reliable, legitimate sources, and cite them in the body of your project, wherever you're incorporating outside ideas into your own writing. Do not just copy and paste from some source.

### THE (SUGGESTED) ATTACK PLAN

- Each of you should do some preliminary research on the topic itself and start to chart the best course through the project.
- Consider which of the different genres you could do the most with (eight elements, and five different media types).

### THE TIPS

- *Keep track of your sources!*
- Use the Ebsco and Gale Group research databases made available through the media center's website. These are costly subscription-only information sources, and the type of tools you'll use frequently in college.
- Don't you be Wikipedia-ing me.

ENGLISH IV – GREDEL  
MULTI-GENRE RESEARCH PROJECT - RUBRIC

THE CONTENT

- The Introduction
  - You've included a **short introductory paragraph**, introducing your project – your subject, your take on the subject, how some one should approach “reading” your project as a whole
  - Your essay is logically organized into separate interrelated paragraphs
  - Your essay is free of basic spelling and grammatical errors

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- Demonstrating an understanding of the novel *Grendel*
  - It is evident from your project that you have read and understood the novel
  - When appropriate, you make explicit **textual references to *Grendel*** along with page citations; those references forward your group's central statement about how the novel deals with your selected topic

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- Demonstrating an understanding of a central idea from the book
  - You has thoughtfully defined your topic introducing it, your interpretation of it, and how it applies to *Grendel*

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- Applying the central idea to their your life
  - You have included some sort of personal reflection concerning your selected topic and how it intersects with your life.
  - Your personal reflection is genuine and thoughtful

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- Applying the central idea to the contemporary world
  - You effectively connect how your topic manifests itself in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and why it continues to be relevant (or not relevant)
  - You're connections are thorough and sophisticated, transcending the superficial

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THE FORM

- Your finished product includes:
  - The use of a minimum of **eight** separate sections, with a minimum of **five** different types of media

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- A table of contents, or some means of navigating through what is obviously an intentional progression

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- You've included all the additional writing necessary to make sense of how your various elements function together as a whole. These pieces of writing make it evident when you are using information from outside sources.
  - This writing too is free of spelling and grammatical errors

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- You have **work cited entries** at the bottom of every page, and in-text citations when appropriate
- You provide citations for *all* the media you incorporate into your project – with the exception of photographs
- As this is a *research*-based project, you incorporate *legitimate* scholarly sources.

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Total: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ 110

Comments: