Senior Honors English

*Grendel*

Study Questions – Chapters 11 and 12

***Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, complete the following items. Be sure to incorporate part of the question into your answer. Wherever appropriate, directly cite textual evidence to support your answers. Use blue or black ink for this exercise.***

1. Describe the scene depicting the arrival of Beowulf and the Geats.
2. What do we learn about Grendel’s thoughts regarding Beowulf on page 155?
3. What does Grendel mean by the following statement from page 157?

“All order, I’ve come to understand, is theoretical, unreal—a harmless, sensible, smiling mask men slide between the two great, dark realities, the self and the world—two snakepits.”

1. Review your chart of the different philosophies covered in this novel. What philosophy is being referenced at the top of page 158? (Yet I exist, I know. Then I alone exist, I said. It’s me or it.”)
2. On page 164, Grendel makes an observation about heroism. In your own words summarize this idea.
3. On page 169, Grendel suggests that he is suddenly awake. What does he mean?
4. Again, review the chart regarding the philosophies. Look at the notion of empiricism. Give one example of how this philosophy is expressed on pages 170-171.
5. On page 173, Grendel says the following: “Is it joy I feel?” What do you suspect is the meaning of this question?