*Beowulf* Project – Modern Times Honors English 11

The story of *Beowulf* is a classic archetypal storyline of ***overcoming the monster***; the hero sets out to destroy an evil of some kind. Generally, this evil is something larger or greater than the protagonist, and will take great courage and strength to defeat. Some examples are *Little Red Riding Hood, Frankenstein, Jack and the Beanstalk,* and *King Kong.* This storyline can also be seen when a person becomes a monster or acts like a monster: *The Incredibles*, the James Bond movies, *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*.

There are five stages in an *Overcoming the Monster* plot.

Source: <http://thewritepractice.com/7-plots/>:

1. **Anticipation Stage and Call** - The reader learns about the monster from afar, including its powers and reign of terror over the nearby community, and the hero accepts the call to defeat the monster.
2. **Dream Stage** - The hero prepares to fight the monster while it is still a comfortable distance away, although the distance between the two is decreasing. In film, a training montage usually fits in right about here.
3. **Frustration Stage** - It’s here! The monster! And it’s even worse than we thought! The monster’s power is revealed in all its terrible glory, and it looks like our hero is in way over his or her head.
4. **Nightmare Stage** - Cue the epic battle music, because it is ON. And it’s not going well for our hero, who is being absolutely pummeled by the monster. But wait! Just as all hope is lost, the major chords start peeking through on the background score, because the tide of battle is about to turn.
5. **The Thrilling Escape from Death, and Death of the Monster** - Monster is defeated, hero emerges victorious, and the grateful people present him/her with treasure, a kingdom or something to rule over, and/or the local village hottie who is the hero’s perfect other half.

For this assignment, you will retell the story of Beowulf and Grendel, but you will **set the story in modern times**. You will need to modernize the following:

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| ***Beowulf*** | **Modern World** |
| Herot/Denmark | A specific society or a place in our society that is important; what does the monster threaten? Examples: church, school, the football team, Pano’s. |
| Grendel | Something/Someone that threatens this place – the monster |
| Beowulf | The hero that defeats the monster |
| Beowulf defeats Grendel by killing him | Modern Beowulf defeats modern Grendel (the defeat does not have to end in death) |

The language you use is also important. You need to include the following:

-a description of the hero

-a description of the monster

When you write this, think about a place or a society. What might threaten that? You can consider any society you know – T.F. North, Calumet City, your friends, your ethnic group, the tennis team, America, etc. When you write, follow the archetypal storyline above. Make this funny or serious. Have fun!

This should be about **three pages typed**. Please give me a copy and submit it to turnitin.com.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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|  | 9-10 | 7-8 | 6 | 0-5 |
| **Use of details/tone** | The story in interesting and has good details; tone is evident (humorous, scary, somber,etc.) | The story is interesting with good details; tone is evident but may be inconsistent | The writer has some details and attempts tone. | The story lacks detail and a clear tone. |
| **Shows understanding of society and has a creative approach** | It is clear what the modern society is, what is valued in this society, and what poses a threat to it. The choices are creative. | It is somewhat clear what the modern society is, what is valued in this society, and what poses a threat to it. The choices may be more obvious. | It is clear what the modern society is, but the values and/or the threat to this society may be unclear. | It is unclear what the modern society is, what is valued in this society, and what poses a threat to it. |
| **Follows archetypal storyline** | The story has all five parts of the storyline and is strongly written. | The story has all five parts of the storyline, but may not be strongly written. | The story has four parts of the storyline. | The story has three or less parts of the storyline. |
| **Language** | The story has a clear physical description of the hero and the monster. | The story has a somewhat clear description of the hero and the monster. | The story has an unclear description of the hero and the monster. | The story lacks a description of the hero and the monster. |
| **Presentation and Mechanics** | The paper is typed and free of errors. It is at least 2.5 pages. It is submitted to turnitin.com. | The paper is typed and has few errors. It meets the length requirement. It is submitted to turnitin.com. | The paper is typed, but has many errors. It may not be long enough. It is submitted to turnitin.com. | The paper is typed, but has a significant number of errors. It is too short. It is submitted to turnitin.com. |