

1. Beowulf is set in a period before Christianity had firmly taken hold in Western Europe. Yet, there are quite a few references to God in the poem. Think of reasons why that could be.
 - Although the story is set somewhere in the 6th/7th century and probably originates from that time, it wasn't written down until the 10th century. In the meantime, Christianity had spread more, so it's probable that it made its way into old stories, too.
 - Not many people could write, only the church and a few educated noblemen. This story was probably written down by a monk who may have added a few references to his God while writing down the story.

2. Grendel is introduced as a blood-thirsty monster. Make a list of words/phrases in the fragments that underline his evil nature.
 - god-cursed
 - bane of the race of men
 - spurned and joyless
 - his rage boiled over
 - maddening for blood
 - loathsome tread
 - a baleful light, flame more than light, flared from his eyes
 - demonic glee
 - etc etc etc 😊

3. Why do you think Beowulf would celebrate his victory by pinning Grendel's arm to the wall?
 - it's like a hunting trophy: to celebrate your kill, you display the most spectacular part on the wall.