

Literary History

PROGRAMME

- Attendance & programme
- Imagining Grendel (hands-on)
- *Beowulf* homework discussion & questions
- Historical background: from Anglo-Saxons to the Norman Conquest
- King Arthur braindump
- Introduction to *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
- Work time + time for questions

BEOWULF

HÆT TE GARDE
na mæca dazum heod cymiga
þrum se framon huda we lingsa elles
ld scepas sceape
næþam meo do se la
syddan aqere þe
ne þæt þroþie se ba
þeod myndam þala
na ymb sit ten dya
can seolde zombarr
ng. ðan ærþra þaf
u scaudum þone god
e þyrd dæppe on
aldræste. Lange
u puldæg þæt lðe
þeapre þæt þe n
lðe lraþra seolde
lraþra ærma god
scaþe ær ærma god



BEO ULF



Beowulf study questions

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.
2. Grendel is introduced as a blood-thirsty monster. Make a list of words/phrases in the fragments that underline his evil nature.
3. Why do you think *Beowulf* would celebrate his victory by pinning Grendel's arm to the wall?

Historical background: from Anglo-Saxons to the Norman Conquest

- Who were the Vikings?
- Raid of Lindisfarne Monastery
- Danelaw
- 1066: Battle of Hastings
- What did the Normans bring?



Who were the Vikings?

- Inhabitants of Scandinavia (different tribes)
- Traded, plundered and settled all over Europe (and beyond) from the late 8th to the late 11th centuries
- Netflix tip about this period in history: *Vikings*



Raid of Lindisfarne Monastery

- Beginning of Viking Age in England
- 793: destruction of a monastery on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne in North England
- Only visitors (raiding and plundering) at first
- Settling from 865 onwards



Danelaw

- Literally: the law of the Danes
- The Danes (as the Anglo-Saxons called the Vikings) had settled in York in the mid 9th century
- Danelaw was a formalised agreement to cede parts of England to the Danes, in return for no further hostilities
 - A treaty was made between Alfred the Great and Danish leader Guthrum in 876 to this effect
- Netflix tip about this period in history: *The Last Kingdom*



1066: Battle of Hastings

- In 1066, king Edward the Confessor of England died without an obvious heir
- William, Duke of Normandy, claimed to be the rightful successor and fought king Harold, who had been appointed successor by the Anglo-Saxons



What did the Normans bring?

- William became King William I and is now known as the first King of England. He is also known as **William the Conqueror**.
- He replaced all Anglo-Saxon leaders with his own noblemen, handing out lands and estates to them: introducing **feudalism** and replacing the Anglo-Saxon warlord culture
- To make his feudal system work, he needed to get his administration in order. He commissioned the **Domesday Book** to list all of his possessions in England and what each estate consisted of.
- The Normans replaced Anglo-Saxon wooden structures with buildings of **stone**, such as castles
- The elite in England now spoke **French!**
- Introduced continental cultural ideals and techniques, such as **end rhyme** and **ballads**

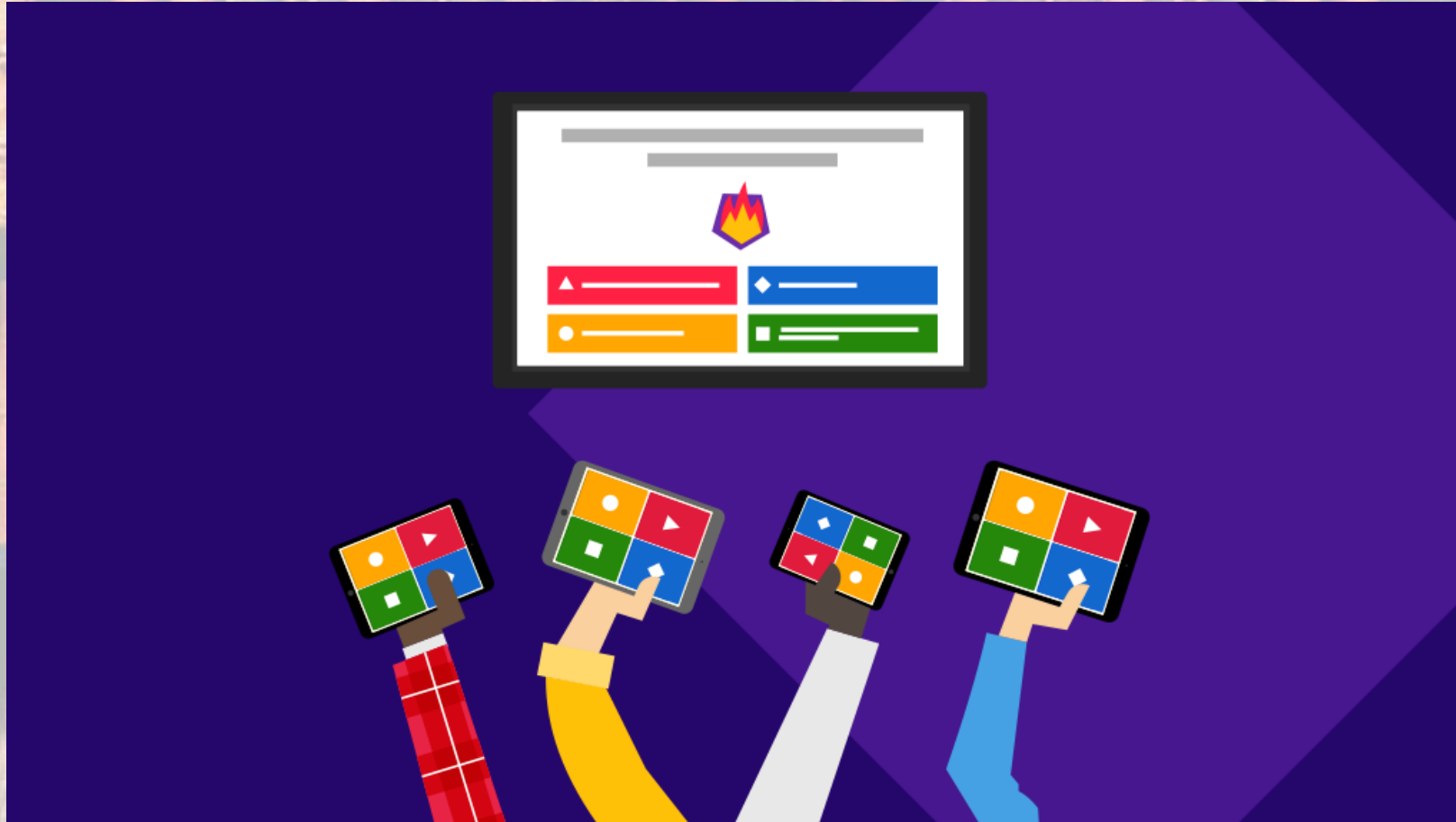


King Arthur braindump

What do you know about King Arthur? Discuss your ideas and associations and write them on the large sheet of paper



Sir Gawain and the Green Knight: interactive synopsis



4V – finish for next week

❖ 4V Middle Ages Quest: 4b. Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

- Introduction
- Literary Fragments

4b. Sir Gawain and the Green K...



4b. Introduction

4b. Literary Fragment(s)

4b. Study Questions

4b. Sir Gawain and the Green K...



4b. Introduction

4b. Literary Fragment(s)

4b. Study Questions