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Beowulf Essay

The Anglo- Saxons concept of heroism was mostly based on the Germanic heroic code. This code valued strength, courage, and loyalty in warriors; hospitality, generosity, and political skills in kings; ceremoniousness in women; and good reputation in all people. This code is vital to warrior societies as a means of understanding their relationships to the world and the menaces lurking beyond their boundaries. A hero needs to be strong in order to defeat its enemy. He should be courageous so he wouldn't fear anything that tried to harm him or and other person. Devotion to duty is the most important because to be a hero, you have to give it all you got and to make sure that people look up to you. As people grew up in that era, there were a lot of wars and changes. Land was always being taken over by some other country or tribe. The language of the land that was taken over usually had changed over onto the tribe that took the land. You would need strength, courage, and loyalty to get through the hard times and still stay united as one tribe. Your people would have to fight off the enemy and have the strength and courage to do so.

Being an Anglo Saxon hero, Beowulf proved himself to be an exception to the rest of the Anglo-Saxons. He had all the characteristics needed to be looked up to. As Grendel went to Beowulf to feed, he “ then stepped to another still body, clutched at Beowulf with his claws, grasped at a strong-hearted wakeful sleeper – and was instantly seized himself, claws bent back as Beowulf leaned up on one arm.” (P. 52). Beowulf was an exceptionally very strong person. He stood out as a leader and his men stood by his side. He didn't want to let Grendel get away from a horrifying crime so as Grendel went down into his lair at the bottom of the lake, Beowulf “ leaped into the lake, would not

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wait for anyone's answer; the heaving water covered him over." (P. 56). That showed that he was the best leader that could rule over men for being that courageous. He devoted his duty to his tribe and warriors from all over.

Beowulf's heroism is just like the New York firefighters today. When Beowulf had to help his people, he had to go into a great battle with Grendel and his mother. Just like Beowulf, the New York firefighters had to help this country and its people by saving the injured or hurt in the September 11th attacks. What Beowulf and the firefighters did changed the lives of everyone and both events stuck out in people's minds like bold letters. Grendel would have kept killing innocent people if Beowulf hadn't killed him. Comparing to what Beowulf did, the firefighters saved thousands of lives on that day and kept looking for survivors weeks after.

Now in these days, people don't really think of a hero as being just one person. They look for a group of people who help someone out. You can accomplish more with more people. We didn't send 1 troop over to Iraq to fight the war; we sent a fair game. People still look up to someone for a role model such as an older brother or even someone famous. This world needs a hero.