



Beowulf hears about Grendel and decides to travel from his home in Geatland (southern Sweden) to Heorot (in northeast Denmark) to see if he can help out.

When he heard about Grendel, Hygelac's thane
 was on home ground, over in Geatland.
 There was no one else like him alive.
 In his day, he was the mightiest man on earth,
 high-born and powerful. He order a boat 5
 that would ply the waves. He announced his plan:
 to sail the swan's road and search out that king,
 the famous prince who needed defenders.
 Nobody tried to keep him from going,
 no elder denied him, dear as he was to them. 10
 Instead, they inspected omens and spurred
 his ambition to go, whilst he moved about
 like the leader he was, enlisting men,
 the best he could find; with fourteen others
 the warrior boarded the boat as captain, 15
 a canny pilot along coast and currents.
 Time went by, the boat was on water,
 in close under the cliffs.
 Men climbed eagerly up the gangplank,
 sand churned in surf, warriors loaded 20
 a cargo of weapons, shining war-gear
 in the vessel's hold, then heaved out,
 away with a will in their wood-weathered ship.
 Over the waves, with the wind behind her
 and foam at her neck, she flew like a bird 25
 until her curved prow had covered the distance
 and on the following day, at the due hour,
 those seafarers sighted land,
 sunlit cliffs, sheer crags
 and looming headlands, the landfall they sought. 30
 It was the end of their voyage and the Geats vaulted
 Over the side, out on the sand,
 And moored their ship. There was a clash of mail
 And a thresh of gear. They thanked God
 For that easy crossing on a clam sea. 35

Explain **HOW characterization**, the **setting** and **voyage contribute to convey**

- **the idea of the values of Anglo-Saxon civilization**
- **the message it may provide to a contemporary reader.**