**BEOWULF’S FUNERAL**

“Beowulf’s funeral” is an extract (of 36 lines) from the Anglo-Saxon epic poem “Beowulf” in which is described the hero’s funeral celebrated by the Geat people, that burn his body on a huge funeral pyre and then bury him with a treasure in a barrow (an ancient burial mound) near the sea so sailors could see it from far away.

Beowulf deserved this honour because, as a great king, he managed to keep people united and, as a great warrior, he was an example of endurance, loyalty and courage, so the author uses the superlative form “*the hugest of all*” (7th verse) to refer to him in order to give him relevance.

The use of words regarding the semantic field of war in the first lines, remember the reader the characteristic feature of Beowulf, who was a great warrior, and suggest he may have been killed in battle. Then the use of the word “Mourning” aggravate the sad atmosphere of the scene and the alliteration of letter “f” in the 8th verse highlight the imagine of the power of the flames and express the idea of the strength of the hero.

In the 10th verse the alliteration of letters “w” and “d” remark the sadness of people weeping because of the hero’s death.

From the 12th verse to the 19th one, the author focuses the readers’ attention on people’s feelings in particular concentrating on the description of a Geat woman with her pain: she is worrying about the future because she expects to see her nation invaded now that their hero is death.

A metaphor closes this part of the extract: “Heaven swallowed the smoke”.

Then it is described the construction of the burial mound and other aspects of the funeral ceremony, which importance is explained by the fact that the barrow is all that will remain in the memory of Beowulf. The alliteration of letter “g” in the 31st verse underline the useless of all the gold buried with the hero, metal that, although valuable, won’t bring him back to life and won’t protect the Geat people from enemies.

The extract ends with the description of twelve warriors chanting in dirges and mourning their loss.