Warrior Boast

Challenge

We are reading about the many adventures of Beowulf and the brave thanes among the Danes and the Geats. We know that the Anglo-Saxons had no problem with letting the world know who they were, who their noble parents were, what great feats they had accomplished and what they planned to do. This type of boasting was perfectly polite, even expected.

**Assignment:**

We are going to do a little old-fashioned chest-thumping Anglo-Saxon style. You will write an original boast, in a style similar to what we have read in Beowulf.

Your boast should include the following elements:

1. Self-identification (I am . . .)
2. Your immediate ancestry and something about your lineage
3. Boasts of at least three past achievements and/or hobbies
4. Boast of an achievement to come
5. Include at least three identifiable kennings
6. Include at least three identifiable alliterative phrases (monster-mashing, Grendel grater)
7. Should be 20-25 lines – approximate verse form (no need to rhyme)

You will write your boast and perform it in class for your classmates.

**Excerpt from *Beowulf*:**

“Hail! King Hrothgar! I am Hygelac’s thane,

Hygelac’s kinsman. Many a deed

Of honor and daring I’ve done in my youth…

The best of my people, prudent and brave,

Urged me, King Hrothgar, to seek you out;

They had in remembrance my courage and might.

Many had seen me come safe from the conflict,

Bloody from battle; five foes I bound

Of the giant kindred, and crushed their clan…

And now with Grendel, the fearful fiend,

Single-handed I’ll settle the strife.

**Boast Example**

Hail young thanes who gather about me –

For I am List the Loquacious, dweller of the tall buildings.

From the rolling hills of Lord Baltimore, I journeyed north to this concrete jungle.

Daughter of James, chief advisor to the aged,

And K, the nurturer of unwell souls.

Sister of S || mountain-conqueror and defender of the sacred soccer nets.

I am sister of G-man || highest intellectual the ages and champion of the courts of tennis.

I am sister of Blue, queen of the dramatic stages and word sculptor.

From the Chesapeake Bay I come! || I roar!

Reader of books, || dancer of songs,

Scribe of stories, || and essay-assigner.

Commander of the hardwood battlefield,

I approach my foes and float on them with the

Fine fin, wading through water,

Snapping waves, || watching for whacks from my foes.

I speak of and boast of the victories of the

Maroon and Gold gridiron titans!

And how ‘bout those Boys’ Latin Warriors?!

I stretch with force forming a fine angle –

Blasting my limb-movers and walking-propellers with

Momentous endurance. Defeating my enemies by

Flying on the human-kite at 1300 ft. above ground.

I prepare the fire feast || The great celebrations.

Under sweltering sun in the flame’s face.

I baked the delicacies ||Party Host Champion I am hailed:

Planner of Surprises! || Host of many!

I’ll make good on my boast and talk all the louder –

Poets will celebrate my actions with rousing cries,

Shaping my deeds into timeless songs.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_

WARRIOR BOAST GRADING RUBRIC:

5 points: Boasts of 3 past achievements/hobbies and one to come \_\_\_\_/4

5 points: Contains 3 Kennings \_\_\_\_/4

5 points: Contains 3 lines of heavy alliteration \_\_\_\_/4

5 points: 20 – 25 lines Long \_\_\_\_/4

5 points: Language that reflects the tone and style of Anglo-Saxon poetry \_\_\_\_/4

5 points: Performed aloud in class \_\_\_\_/2

Score: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/30

**Class winner earns an additional 5 points.**