

Episodes



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Major Episodes

1. Scyld Scefing (1–52)
2. Unferth and Breca (499–603)
3. Sigemund; Heremōd (871–915)
4. Finnsburg (1066–1159)
5. Hygelac's Frisian expedition (1197–1214)
6. Heremōd (1709–1722)
7. Mōdþryðo (1931–1962)
8. The Ingeld and Heathobards episode (2024–2069)
9. The Lament of the Last Survivor (2247–2266)
10. Beowulf's return from Frisia; the succession; the second Swedish war (2354–2396)
11. Hrēþel; the first Swedish war; Dæghrefn (2426–2509)
12. Weohstan's killing of Eanmund in the second Swedish war (2602–2625)
13. Hygelac's death; the battle at Ravenswood in the first Swedish war (2910–3007)

Minor Episodes

1. The fate of Heorot/the feud between Hrothgar and Ingeld (82–85)
2. Creation (90–98)
3. Cain's kin 1 (106–114)
4. Beowulf's fight against the giants (419–424)
5. Ecgþeow's killing of Heafolaf and subsequent exile (459–472)
6. Cain's kin 2 (1261–1266)
7. Beowulf's inglorious youth (2183–2189)

What Is the Poem About?

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(Fact check: the digressions discussed in Bonjour come to 730 lines, or 23 percent of the poem. Shippey's 30/70 division contrasts the actual fights with everything else (and categorizes the Grendel material before the hall-fight with the latter but the speeching after Grendel's mother's attack with the former), but in fact a lot of space is taken up by speeches, troop movements, and landscape descriptions, so **“historical background” vs “fantastic[al] foreground” is a false dichotomy.**)

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