English 11a

Unit 1: The Anglo-Saxon Era

*Beowulf* Guided Questions (pg. 112-114)

*Directions: Read the pages indicted above, and answer the following questions. Your answers must be thorough, detailed, and written in complete sentences.*

1. Who composed *Beowulf*?
2. Who are the characters? Who is the hero?
3. What is a scribe?
4. Define the term “epic.”
5. What is the heroic epic?
6. Describe the organization of *Beowulf* (how is it set up?)
7. What are earls and thanes?

8. How did a king earn his retainer’s loyalty?

1. What is a wergild?
2. What was life like during this time period?
3. Define “wyrd.”
4. What was the scop’s primary poetic technique?
5. What is a caesura?
6. Give one example of a compound word from Old English.
7. What are kennings? Give one example.
8. What is an apposition? What appositions are used to describe Grendel?