

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Reading****The Heroic Code****Objective:** Understanding the heroic code**Activity**

*Beowulf* is largely a reflection of the Germanic heroic code. This code, or system of beliefs, lays out the rules of conduct for a good man, warrior, and king. The rules involve different specific behaviors for the different classes of people who lived at the time. For example, warriors were expected to show strength, courage, and loyalty; kings, however, must exhibit political wisdom, along with gracious hospitality and generosity. The actions of the characters in *Beowulf* either conform to this code or deviate from it. What you will learn as you read the poem, however, is that this code is not only contradictory, but also oftentimes useless.

Here is a list of situations; next to each situation, write a sentence or two detailing how you believe a good, or moral, person would ideally react and why. Then, include what you personally would do and why.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Behavior Chart**

Situation	Moral/Proper Reaction	Your Reaction
<p>You are taking a test. You happen to look up and see that your best friend is cheating off of your paper, therefore risking not only his grade, but yours as well.</p>		
<p>After a varsity football game, you meet up with several friends. Two of them, who are on the football team, are drinking alcohol. Drinking is against team rules and would result in being kicked off the team.</p>		
<p>You are coaching a youth league basketball team. During the game, one of the scorekeepers forgets to change the possession arrow and your team is awarded the ball two times in a row, instead of correctly being given to the other team. Your team is only ahead by one point with one minute left.</p>		
<p>You are at a fast food restaurant with your friends. After handing the cashier a ten-dollar bill to pay for your five-dollar meal, you are given fifteen dollars in change.</p>		
<p>Your friend calls and asks if you want to go for a drive. You know that she is not old enough to drive yet.</p>		
<p>You are studying for a huge chemistry test. It is nearly 1:00 in the morning and you still have a lot of studying to do. Your best friend calls on the phone crying and needs to talk. Your test is at 9:00 A.M.</p>		
<p>You find a wallet containing over \$500 in it, along with the owner's license, credit cards, and personal material.</p>		