



Thinking
About
'Beowulf'



JAMES W. EARL

Thinking About Beowulf

W.H. Davenport Adams



Thinking About Beowulf:

Thinking about Beowulf James Whitby Earl, 1994 Bringing contemporary critical theory to bear on Beowulf the author explores the literary originality of a poem often treated as oral and traditional He grounds his work in three axioms about Beowulf First the poem cannot be dated with certainty and does not portray any historical society Second the epic a long narrative poem of the heroic age is not necessarily a traditional oral genre And third there is no reason to believe that Beowulf was anything more than a fictitious hero invented by the poet These are not researches into Beowulf in the usual sense Rather they are exercises in thinking about the poem Each chapter introduces elementary issues in Anglo Saxon history and culture then explores their relations to the text and to the reader *Thinking About 'Beowulf'* James W. Earl, 2022 Bringing contemporary critical theory to bear on Beowulf the author explores the literary originality of a poem often treated as oral and traditional He grounds his work in three axioms about Beowulf First the poem cannot be dated with certainty and must be considered a portrait of an imaginary society Second the epic a long narrative poem of the heroic age is not necessarily a traditional genre And third there is no reason to believe that Beowulf was anything more than a fictitious hero invented by the poet The first half of the book examines the literary treatment of such concepts as space and time history and transcendence and orality and literacy in Beowulf and other Old English poems The author's method here is mostly phenomenological the sort of intellectual and religious history exemplified by Paul Ricoeur The second half is dominated by psychoanalysis beginning with the psychoanalytic anthropology of Victor Turner and Ren Girard Then Freud leads the author to consider questions of individual consciousness creativity and reader response The book concludes by probing the creative autonomy of the Beowulf poet as well as of the reader and their mutual interest in the hero's freedom beyond his fate Thinking about Beowulf James Whitby Earl, 1994 **The Art and Thought of the "Beowulf" Poet** Leonard Neidorf, 2023-01-15 In *The Art and Thought of the Beowulf Poet* Leonard Neidorf explores the relationship between Beowulf and the legendary tradition that existed prior to its composition The Beowulf poet inherited an amoral heroic tradition which focused principally on heroes compelled by circumstances to commit horrendous deeds fathers kill sons brothers kill brothers and wives kill husbands Medieval Germanic poets relished the depiction of a hero's unyielding response to a cruel fate but the Beowulf poet refused to construct an epic around this traditional plot Focusing instead on a courteous and pious protagonist's fight against monsters the poet creates a work that is deeply untraditional in both its plot and its values In Beowulf the kin slayers and oath breakers of antecedent tradition are confined to the background while the poet fills the foreground with unconventional characters who abstain from transgression display courtly etiquette and express monotheistic convictions Comparing Beowulf with its medieval German and Scandinavian analogues *The Art and Thought of the Beowulf Poet* argues that the poem's uniqueness reflects one poet's coherent plan for the moral renovation of an amoral heroic tradition In Beowulf Neidorf discerns the presence of a singular mind at work in the combination and

modification of heroic folkloric hagiographical and historical materials Rather than perceive Beowulf as an impersonally generated object Neidorf argues that it should be read as the considered result of one poet's ambition to produce a morally edifying theologically palatable and historically plausible epic out of material that could not independently constitute such a poem

Narrative Pulse of Beowulf John M Hill,2009-10-14 One of the most consistent critiques levelled against Beowulf is that it lacks a steady narrative advance and that its numerous digressions tend to complicate if not halt the poem's movement As those passages often look backward or far ahead in narrative time they seem to transform the poem into a meditative pastiche The Narrative Pulse of Beowulf counters this assertion examining Beowulf as a social drama with a strong forward moving narrative momentum John M Hill discerns a distinctive narrative pulse arising out of the poem's many scenes of arrival and departure He argues that such scenes far from being fixed or type scenes are socially dramatic and a key to understanding the structural density of the poem Bolstering his analysis with a strong understanding of the epic Hill looks at Beowulf in relation to other stories such as The Odyssey and The Iliad epics that though they may appear to have a certain narrative elasticity use scenes of arrival and departure to create a cohesive social world in which stories unfold As a new and comprehensive study of one of the most important Old English texts The Narrative Pulse of Beowulf sheds new light on this famous poem and the epic tradition itself

Beowulf Harold Bloom,2007 Presents eleven critical essays that analyze the structure myth and history of the Old English epic poem depicting the heroic deeds of Beowulf a member of a Germanic tribe who travels to Denmark to help defeat a monster named Grendel

Beowulf Stephan Grundy,2023-05-30 A fat dreamy child disappointing to his famous berserker father Berki is given the mocking name Beowulf by his fellow youths His love for the maiden Hygd drives him to his first heroic contest in the course of which he is swept up by the wild passions of the sea gods ninth daughter

Beowulf ,1881 **Plain Living and High Thinking, Or, Practical Self-culture, Moral, Mental and Physical** W.H. Davenport Adams,1883 *Wham! Teaching with Graphic Novels Across the Curriculum* William G. Brozo,Gary Moorman,Carla Meyer,2013-11-15 Graphic novels are an excellent medium to motivate today's youth to become independent learners and thinkers This practical guide shows secondary school teachers how to incorporate graphic novels into content area instruction as a tool for meeting the needs of diverse learners and achieving the goals of the Common Core State Standards The authors provide instructional guidelines with classroom examples that demonstrate how graphic novels can be used to expand content knowledge and literacy in science social studies math and English language arts Teachers will appreciate the book's specific suggestions for selecting graphic novels and for employing responsive practices that will build students reading writing speaking listening and media competencies

Halleck's New English Literature Reuben Post Halleck,1913 **Plain Living and High Thinking; Or, Practical Self-culture: Moral, Mental and Physical** William Henry Davenport Adams,1880 **Literary Essays on Language and Meaning in the Poem Called Beowulf** Raymond Paul Tripp,1992 This collection of essays aims at freeing Beowulf from the burden of its critical past and future It begins with

a balanced yet unsparing review of the uses and abuses of contemporary criticism and continues with answers for questions familiar to students of the poem the Christian Pagan dilemma the connection with the Grettis Saga the value of treasure the role of drinking the identity of the messenger the poet on poetry the poet s rhetoric the events in Heorot the notorious gífstol crux the importance of wordplay and the poet s understanding of fate Other essays also engage a wide range of general topics the poet s lively sense of humour use of the Liber Monstrorum the poet s scatology and canonical parody sartorial anticipation of Carlyle and more *Beowulf, Tr. Out of the Old English, by Chauncey Brewster Tinker, 1912* **Beowulf** Beowulf, 1910 **Notes and Queries: a Medium of Inter-communication for Literary Men, Artists, Antiquaries, Genealogists, Etc**, 1892 **Journal of the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association** Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, 1995 The Love of Nature in the Early English Poetry Oskar Dolch, 1882 The Relation of the Hrólfs Saga Kraka and the Bjarkarímur to Beowulf Oscar Ludvig Olson, 1916 The Love of Nature in the Early English Poetry Preceded by Some Introductory Remarks on the Poetic Interpretation of Nature Oskar Dolch, 1882

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