



# Writing your Adventure Story 1



You have researched the Anglo-Saxons; found out about Beowulf; written a description of Beowulf or your own character; created your own monster and its lair; thought about the conversation between Hrothgar and Beowulf and planned your adventure. It is now time to bring it all together!

## How this Guide works

We have put this guide together to help you write your Anglo-Saxon adventure story. **We suggest you write each section at a time (this could be a paragraph or section a day).** This will help you concentrate on each aspect of the plot, instead of writing it all in one go.

This guide has been split into pages on each of the elements of the story:

- Opening / Introduction
- Build-Up
- Dilemma
- Resolution
- Closing / Ending

Each page will have an example we have written, a success criteria, sentence starters and any vocabulary or grammar that you may like to use. You may 'magpie' ideas from the examples, but please make sure you are writing in your own words.

Before using this guide to write your story, you need to make sure you have completed the following to help you:

- Your description of Beowulf or your own main character
- The conversation between Hrothgar and Beowulf / your character
- Your plan for your monster and its lair
- Your plan for the story (using Story Mountain, Flow Map or a table)

You will need to come up with a Title for your story, but you could do this at the end.

## Adventure stories will usually include:



a main character going on a journey;



a faraway setting described using lots of ambitious adjectives;



a build-up, dilemma and resolution;



short, snappy sentences for effect;



a cliffhanger question.

In your plans and previous tasks, you will have covered the first three of these points: you have thought about your main character, where the story is taking place and planned for what the dilemma is (the monster) and how the story will be resolved. We will look at the remaining two as we write each of the paragraphs.

## Most of these can be used in any of the sections of your story

### Sentence openers / time adverbials

It was just an ordinary day...

The rain began to pour...

When it was all over...

As the day drew to a close...

Suddenly...

After the rain...

The next day...

Without warning...

alarmed

bold

crumbling

discover

escape

glorious

rapidly

swooped

conscious

awful

chilling

darkness

eerie

familiar

magical

splendid

weird

enchanted



frightened

mysterious

strange

wicked

### Conjunctions and relative pronouns

after

because

who

before

if

whose

while

which

when

since



### Alternatives to 'said'

bellowed

boomed

laughed

stuttered

mumbled

muttered

replied

whispered

roared

screamed

shrieked

yelled

ancient

abandoned

bravely

bizarre

dangerous

creature

disturbing

disastrous

evil

enemy

hero

furiously

shadowy

perilous

terrifying

sturdy

determined

bestly





# Writing your Opening



**Purpose:** Your opening should introduce your main character(s) and the setting

We do not want to put ALL of our descriptions into the first paragraph – just enough for the reader to get an idea about what our character is like. Try to use [SHOW not tell](#).

You have already made a start on your introductory paragraph (Beowulf or your main character entering a room). You might need to make edits or add to it so it matches your idea on your plan. The parts we had written for the last Unexpected Task have been highlighted in yellow – we've added more description that we had included in our plan.

**On my plan:**

Paragraphs (five part structure)	Grammar or vocabulary
<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beowulf arrives by boat</li><li>• Approached by soldiers on the shore</li><li>• Led to Heorot</li></ul>	

## Opening Success Criteria

We have highlighted some of the elements of the SC in different colours so you can see them in the example.

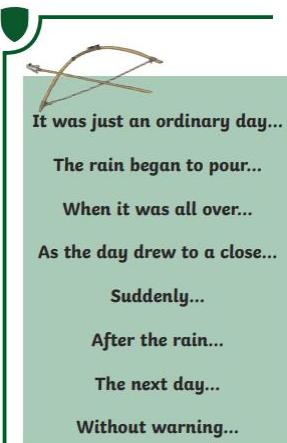
- ✓ I have described my main character using **expanded noun phrases** and **relative clauses**
- ✓ I have written consistently in the past tense and third person
- ✓ I have used a comma to separate fronted adverbials
- ✓ I have described my main character through **showing the reader, rather than telling**
- ✓ I have varied my **sentence openers** (-ing, simile, preposition, adverb, conjunction, -ed or dialogue)
- ✓ I have used **vocabulary** chosen for effect, e.g.
  - Word choice
  - Similes or metaphors
- ✓ If I have used speech, it is correctly punctuated

You may choose to include dialogue, but there should be a **MAXIMUM of THREE LINES OF SPEECH**. The next section will have more speech as it contains the dialogue and we don't want to have lots of unnecessary speech.

## Opening Example

The rain began to pour over the wooden, sturdy ship as it battled its way through waves which dwarfed the men on board. Streaming down their dull helmets, into their knotted hair and across their muscular arms, the water went almost unnoticed as the warriors continued to row viciously as their commander, Beowulf, stood at the helm of the ship. Unnerved by the storm they had encountered, he stood as sturdy as a statue – rallying his crew and giving them encouragement. For what seemed like hours, Beowulf continued lifting the spirits of the men he was taking across the treacherous waters until, “Land!” cried one of the men. No man made a sound – not even Beowulf, who had joined the men at the oars – as they rowed with determination and purpose. The ship met the land with a wet thud. As the men disembarked, Beowulf declared, “We are here to aid your King!” There was no response; the men from the ship looked puzzled. Beowulf raised his voice again, “We mean you no harm – you may lower your weapons. You will notice we have not drawn our own.” Suddenly, twenty-five guards (Beowulf estimated) were sheathing their weapons and walking towards him and his crew. They did not speak but ushered Beowulf and his crew towards a beaten path to the west side of the shore.

Stomping, making tiny earthquakes as he walked, Beowulf marched towards Heorot – his men and some of the guards trailing behind. The great hall loomed over the surrounding trees and cast the battalion of men into dark shadow. He burst through the gigantic, engraved, wooden archway and stood in the open entrance hall and could see Hrothgar sitting at the top of the hall. Before he could take another step, he heard the rest of his congregation arrive. Startled, the men of Heorot jumped out of their seats. In front of them stood a muscular, ferocious beast of a man with a forest of blond hair who looked as strong as an ox. His expression was indistinguishable, but he stood with one hand on his waist and the other hovering above the hilt of his sword. The guards quivered.



because	since
when	unless
if	which
as	who
after	whose
while	where
before	until

One day...	One morning...	All of a sudden
At first...	In the middle of	Far away...

wicked	enchanted	shadowy	eerie
mysterious	glorious	disturbing	breath-taking
peculiar	bizarre	chilling	splendid

# Writing your Build-Up

**Purpose:** Your audience should learn about the problem and continue to find out more about the main character

This paragraph will allow us to continue to use the SHOW not tell method of character development as this is where most of your dialogue will be. Again, remember that your dialogue should serve a **PURPOSE**.

You have already made a start on this paragraph too (Hrothgar telling Beowulf about the problem and Beowulf or your character agreeing to take on the monster). You might need to make edits or add to it so it matches your idea on your plan. You may notice that we have included all of our example from the last Unexpected Trail – we have only needed to add information about what the monster is (we've highlighted this in yellow). This may be all you need to do – you do not need to re-write it if this is the case. Just add any information and see if you can improve your work, e.g. choosing better alternatives to said or writing more action.

On my plan:

<b>Build-up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hrothgar recognises Beowulf</li> <li>Beowulf tells Hrothgar why he's there</li> <li>He agrees to beat the monster</li> </ul>	“ “ boomed declared explained
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## Build-Up Success Criteria

We have highlighted some of the elements of the SC in different colours so you can see them in the example.

- ✓ I have included dialogue that is correctly punctuated (inverted commas, reporting clauses, punctuation to separate the reporting clause and speech, new speaker new line)
- ✓ I have used DAD (description, action, dialogue)
- ✓ My reader / character finds out about the problem
- ✓ I have used alternatives to said
- ✓ I have varied where I have my reporting clause in my sentences
- ✓ My alternatives for 'said' help to show what my characters are like as people
- ✓ I have varied my sentence openers (-ing, similes, preposition, adverbs, conjunction, -ed, dialogue)

shrieked	stuttered	mumbled	whispered
yelled	roared	muttered	replied
bellowed	boomed		

From the Y5 Grammar Helpsheets: Punctuating Speech:

“I will wait for Grendel tonight, he shall be defeated before sunrise tomorrow,” declared Beowulf.

Use this clip to remind yourself of the rules we use when punctuating speech:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zvftsbk>

## Build-Up Example

Sitting on his golden, ancient throne, Hrothgar glared – staring directly at the intruder stood calmly in the centre of hall. Guards around the outside edge of the hall unsheathed their swords and charged towards Beowulf like a herd of bulls. Beowulf opened his mouth and thunder echoed throughout Heorot, “Halt!” he boomed. “I am here in service to your king,” he continued. Hrothgar’s puzzled eyes relaxed at the stranger’s exclamation.

“Your name?” the King enquired.

“Beowulf,” the warrior replied coolly. Upon hearing his name, the guards lowered their swords – the Dane’s reputation preceded him. They knew if he wanted to attack, he would have done so already. “I have come to vanquish this land of the grotesque beast,” Beowulf continued calmly, his voice echoing around the now-silent hall.

“Many have already tried and failed,” Hrothgar challenged. He hoped no one had heard the quiver in his voice. “No mortal man stands a chance.”

“Maybe you have not found the right mortal man.”

“We have all heard of your bravery and determination, young thegn.”

“Then you will know I have never faltered or been defeated,” Beowulf interjected. Eyes were glued to him as if he were a precious jewel.

“You have not even seen with the monstrosity we face,” Hrothgar said. “One look at the Barghest is enough to make any man die of fear alone.” Silence engulfed the hall. He was concerned. Too often he had heard young men mistake their stupidity for bravery. “How can you be certain you will be successful?”

“It matters not,” Beowulf answered calmly. “Just know it will be done.”