



# Writing your Dilemma



**Purpose:** The dilemma creates tension and suspense which is building up towards the resolution

This is the paragraph where we can find out more about your monster and its lair. We suggest writing it as your character going to confront the monster in its lair so you can use the great ideas you came up with in your plan. Alternatively, you could have the monster attack Heorot (or somewhere nearby) which then requires Beowulf to go to its lair.

You have come up with your own monster and its lair as part of the last Unexpected Trail task. You will now need to put these into sentences. **To avoid lists of description, try to build in the senses when describing the lair – use your plan to help. Vary your sentence length to build in suspense – shorter sentences give the impression that time is going quickly.**

**This is NOT the fight – this will be in the next paragraph.**

On my plan:

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| <b>Dilemma</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beowulf takes his men and some of Hrothgar's to the Barghest's lair (a mere in a forest)</li> <li>Forest is creepily silent</li> <li>Noises startle the men as they approach the mere</li> <li>Some of the men flee</li> </ul> |  |
|----------------|---|--|

## Dilemma 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 a description of the monster's lair
  - Expanded noun phrases
  - Relative clauses
- ✓ I have included the senses (sight, hearing, feel, smell and taste) to describe the lair
- ✓ I have included short sentences to create suspense
- ✓ I have used interesting vocabulary or language
  - Similes / metaphors / personification
- ✓ I have varied my sentence openers (-ing, similes, preposition, adverbs, conjunction, -ed)
- ✓ I have used parenthesis to add extra information ( ) , -
- ✓ I have continued to show what my character is like through their actions

|               |            |                 |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| abandoned     | frozen     | repulsive       |
| agonising     | gloomy     | silhouetted     |
| chilling      | gruesome   | sinister        |
| clammy        | grotesque  | solemn          |
| cramped       | haunting   | stomach-turning |
| crumbling     | horrendous | weathered       |
| darkening     | jagged     | twisted         |
| deafening     | lifeless   |                 |
| decaying      | looming    |                 |
| dilapidated   | miserable  |                 |
| deserted      | misty      |                 |
| disgusting    | mottled    |                 |
| ear-splitting | murky      |                 |
| eerie         | neglected  |                 |
| filthy        | petrifying |                 |

If you are unsure about the meaning of these words, look them up in a thesaurus or online. Which could you use in your writing?

## Dilemma Example

Hours had passed since the men had eaten. They had departed Heorot in the early afternoon after Hrothgar had held a feast in their honour. Attempting to pierce through the thick, emerald canopy of the forest, the light cast grotesque shadows over the combined forces of Beowulf's and Hrothgar's men. Although it shouldn't be dark for hours, the shadows gave the impression it was early evening. They had to move quickly. Beowulf had explained to the men the afternoon would be the best time to find the beast as it was a nocturnal creature and so its evil energies would be depleted as long as the sun remained in the sky. He glanced around at the men, his men, some of those Hrothgar had sent couldn't have been older than sixteen. Do they know what they're walking towards? Beowulf thought guiltily. They were doing well to keep up with the pace of his march.

Afraid of breaking the forest's dense silence, none of the men spoke. The silence surrounded them. The air seemed heavy as they walked, like there was something in the air which made it difficult to breathe or think clearly. Overgrown tree roots looked like imps; overhanging branches were serpents and when a breeze could pass through the trees, the rustling leaves put all of the men on edge. Still they ventured.

Beowulf slowed and raised his hand, causing the other men to halt. If the silence hadn't been so noticeable, they would have usually ignored it. Water. The sound of gurgling and bubbling filled the men's ears. As they approached the seemingly-tranquil sound, Beowulf saw the water. The dark, gloomy water (which resembled the colour of mud) concealed the circling beasts beneath its depths with a slow stream of bubbles that reached the surface: snakes and sea-dragons, monsters and wild things. A chill passed through the group – a cloud must have covered the sun. The still forest around the mere erupted into a cacophony: the trees and their branches creaked, the bubbling intensified and the wind howled violently. It was no wind. Beowulf could tell by the way Hrothgar's men became rooted to the spot – paralysed with fear.

They ran. Hid behind trees. Took off their weapons so they could climb the dark bark. Some were foolish to run into the water. Only Beowulf and some of his warriors remained at the water's edge. Unafraid. Determined.



# Writing your Resolution



**Purpose:** to fix the dilemma and begin to bring the story to a close

This is it – the **BIG FIGHT** paragraph. Although this may be considered the most exciting paragraph, it is usually the **shortest**. This is because having a shorter paragraph with short sentences continues to build up the tension and the reader feels like the fight is happening as they are reading it. We don't want to include information or description that is not involved in the fight otherwise it doesn't make the fight sound that serious. **Remember the weakness you thought about for your monster – this is probably how they will be defeated.**

Look at this fight scene paragraph. What do you notice?

**What do we think of this paragraph?**

Beowulf walked towards the monster. Then he took out his sword. Then the monster went towards Beowulf, then he tried to knock Beowulf's sword out of his hand, then Beowulf jumped. A bird flew overhead. Suddenly, the monster went towards Beowulf again quickly. Beowulf was not fast enough. He was knocked into the wall. Then the monster thought he had won. Beowulf was laying on the floor. He was victorious.

This fight scene is very repetitive. Can you spot how many times each of the following are mentioned?

- 'Beowulf'
- 'the monster'
- 'then'

There is also a sentence that doesn't belong ('A bird flew overhead.')

**What makes a good fight scene?**

- ✓ Short, snappy sentences
- ✓ Powerful verbs and adverbials
- ✓ Onomatopoeia

(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4mmn39/articles/z8t3g82>)

bellowed boomed

shrieked yelled

roared screamed

**Fight Example**

The awful beast approached. Between the colossal trees, the Barghest's ebony body slinked towards the remaining men. Teeth bared. His mouth a snarl. He pounced. Beowulf lunged – his sword striking the monster's front leg. Screaming in agony, the Barghest thrashed against a nearby stump. The legs of the beast flailing, Beowulf was thrown across the clearing and landed in the dark water. When he re-emerged, his men were gone. So was the beast. Cautiously, the warrior picked up his sword from the ground and, sticking to the shadows of the trees, went searching for the Barghest.

He saw him. The beast was clawing menacingly at his victims' bodies. His leg was bent awkwardly from where the sword had struck. Beowulf climbed the nearest tree. Jumping gingerly from branch to branch, he stood above the horrific monster. He would have to be quick. Sword raised above his head, he jumped. Slice. The Barghest shrieked piercingly through the silent forest. The tree where Beowulf had leapt was now just splinters after the monster had reared, trying to throw Beowulf off his back. The Barghest flopped into a heap, a river of maroon cascaded from the wound. Shaking, Beowulf dragged himself to his feet. Like wildfire, crippling agony rushed up Beowulf's leg where the beast had caught him with his serrated claws. Beowulf staggered out of the clearing towards the faded path.

| Verbs    |          | Adverbs    |
|----------|----------|------------|
| sprinted | swung    | hastily    |
| zoomed   | thrashed | briskly    |
| charged  | leapt    | stealthily |
| punched  | jumped   | rapidly    |
| dashed   | kicked   | cautiously |
| fled     | soared   | vigilantly |
| crept    | raced    | gingerly   |

**Time adverbials**

|                          |                        |                      |                                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| without warning          | in the blink of an eye |                      |                                      |
| running for his/her life | sweating anxiously     | in complete darkness | with tears rolling down his/her face |
| all of a sudden          | as if by magic         | beyond the clouds    | inside the cave                      |

| Warrior sentence starters    | Monster sentence starters                 |
|------------------------------|---|
| Jolting forward...           | Trampling wet, sodden leaves underfoot... |
| As brave as a lion...        | He/She clawed menacingly...               |
| Defending himself/herself... | His/Her legs bent awkwardly...            |
| Sword raised...              | Like a ..., the monster...                |
|                              | Enraged, the monster...                   |



# Writing your Closing



**Purpose:** to bring a satisfying conclusion to your story or leave on a cliff-hanger

Your monster or your hero have been defeated? What are the **CONSEQUENCES** of this? Think back to why your hero went on the quest to start with. What does it mean for Hrothgar and his men if the beast has been defeated? What does it mean if your monster was victorious? Will it continue to terrorise them or will it leave them alone? How does the victor feel? How could you show this through their actions?

**IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ELLIPSES (...):** if you plan on leaving your story on a cliff-hanger, do **NOT** finish the last sentence with an ellipsis (...). You may want to use them in this paragraph, but they are used to build tension – they won't be useful at the end of the final sentence as there is nothing following!

On my plan:

|        |   |  |
|--------|---|--|
| Ending | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beowulf is exhausted</li><li>• Beowulf returns from the fight to cheers and celebration</li><li>• The people put up a statue to commemorate him</li></ul> |  |
|--------|---|--|

## Closing Success Criteria

- ✓ I have varied my sentence structure (-ing, simile, preposition, adverbial, conjunction, -ed, dialogue)
- ✓ I have varied my sentence length
- ✓ I have linked back to my first paragraph
- ✓ I have thought about the vocabulary that I have chosen and used it for effect

If you haven't already – give your tale a title! You can be as creative as you like, you could use your character's name and the name of your monster...

## Closing Example

Beowulf didn't even notice he'd found the path. Victorious, he walked away from the blood-shed, holding his trusty sword in his hand – the scarlet splatters glistened as the light danced through the leaves onto the warrior. He walked a little slower than before; his sword dragged along the ground – turning up rubble and dirt as he staggered. Head down, he reached the outskirts of the village.

Cheers erupted as he reached the square. Countless people hit him on the back and rose petals were thrown down at his feet. Happy though he was, he doubted whether he had done the noble thing. Hrothgar, of course, congratulated him and thanked him graciously.

"We are finally free of the plague upon this land!" Hrothgar proclaimed. The crowd silenced. "We are forever indebted to this brave, young warrior and his men – we will never be able to repay your sacrifice." Whilst Beowulf protested the fuss, a stone statue was unveiled in the square depicting Beowulf holding the monster's head.

**Editing Stations** – You are almost there! We need to check through to make sure we are happy with our story as a whole (as we have written it in sections). Use the prompt questions to help you. You could ask someone at home to read through it or you could read it to them and see if you spot anything that needs changing or could be improved.



Have you checked for High Frequency Words?

Spellings of conjunctions?

Other words: **Heorot** **Beowulf** **Hrothgar**  
**there** **their** **they're**  
**its** (possession) **it's** (it is)

Do all of your sentences start with a capital letter and end with a full stop?

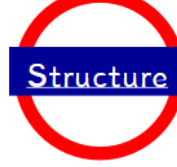
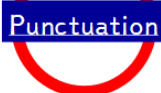
Do your proper nouns have capital letters?

(**Beowulf**, your character's name)

Do your fronted adverbials have a comma after them?

Does your dialogue have all the necessary punctuation?

Have you challenged yourself to include sophisticated punctuation? ; : - ( )



Do your paragraphs follow on from another? Have you **used cohesive devices** (such as time adverbials) to link them?

Do you start all of your sentences the same way?



**WELL DONE!**

You should be really proud of yourself for writing so much. We are looking forward to reading through your **AMAZING** adventure stories ☺