

Beowulf: A Letter of Recommendation

You are King Hrothgar. Beowulf has recently rid your meadhall of two terrible monsters, Grendel and his Ima. A messenger from the distant kingdom of Mercia has brought you a message from Queen Huffgar the Wise. She is having a terrible problem with Acromantulas (cf. the Harry Potter series), and she has heard about Beowulf's mad monster eradication skillz™. She is wondering if you would recommend Beowulf's services for her own monster issues. Write a letter of recommendation to Queen Huffgar on Beowulf's behalf in which you recommend his monster-slaying services. What heroic qualities does he have? What are his abilities or special skills? Why is he better for the job of Hero of Mercia than any other hero you know? Your task is to get Beowulf this job; everything hinges on your recommendation.



Requirements:

1. Your letter must be double-spaced, Times New Roman font size 12, with the proper MLA heading and a snappy title that will make Queen Huffgar smile.
2. You must cite examples (yes, that means quotations) from the text that prove that Beowulf will be an excellent choice for the position of Hero of Mercia. When you cite *Beowulf*, you need to refer to line numbers in parentheses as opposed to page numbers. Because your only source is *Beowulf*, you need not create a Works Cited page or include any details aside from line numbers. When there is a line break, use the / to indicate the break. For example: "He raised / His arms and seized her by the shoulder; anger / Doubled his strength, he threw her to the floor" (lines 509-511). For the first reference to lines, you use the word lines; for each subsequent reference, you just put the numbers: "G-d, who sent him victory, gave judgment / For truth and right, Ruler of the Heavens, / Once Beowulf was back on his feet and fighting" (527-529). See your Diana Hacker book pp. 377-378 for more about citing poems.
3. You must include at least three kennings in your essay. Underline them so that Queen Huffgar doesn't miss them when she reads your letter.