

from BEOWULF

COPY MASTER

Grammar and Style

CREATE IMAGERY

Writers often use **imagery**—words and phrases that create vivid sensory experiences for the reader—to describe a scene or convey a mood. Vivid **verbs** and specific **adjectives** help the writer create imagery.

The dragon leaped/ With pain, thrashed and beat at him, spouting/ Murderous flames
(lines 675–677)

Directions: Read these lines from *Beowulf*. Underline the adjectives and verbs in each sentence that create imagery. Then write your own sentence that uses similar elements.

Piles of gleaming gold, precious/Gems, scattered on the floor, cups/

And bracelets, rusty old helmets, beautifully/Made but rotting with no
hands to rub/And polish them. (lines 770–774)

*Piles of unused equipment, dusty balls and gloves, jammed on the shelves,
pads and uniforms, tattered netting, once new but fading with no one to
seize them and play.*

1. He journeyed, forever joyless,/Straight to the door, then snapped it open,/Tore its iron fasteners with a touch/And rushed angrily over the threshold.

2. Grendel snatched at the first Geat/ He came to, ripped him apart, cut/ His body to bits with powerful jaws

3. The keeper of the mead/Came carrying out the carved flasks,/And poured that bright sweetness.

4. He leaped into the lake, would not wait for anyone's/ Answer; the heaving water covered him
