

DLR - Artefact 3 (Sutton Hoo Helmet)

[Audio: background music, light and upbeat. Person talking to camera.]

(Setting: Warehouse, historical dolls, a Sutton Hoo Helmet, Adam Bushnell's book 'Invade and Settle, Raid and Meddle,' a yellow and red flag of Northumberland and a red flag with a white dragon on it which used to be the old flag for the Kingdom of Northumberland.

(Large sign with text and images:

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Images include: The skeletal jaw of a dinosaur, Lady's Miao Boots (China/Thailand), children reading Viking books and examining ancient Viking pottery, child holding a rock.)

(Adam Bushnell) My name is Adam Bushnell and I'm an author from County Durham. Today I'm doing a lesson with some Durham Learning Resources artefacts.

(Object: Camera zooms in on a singular silver and gold Sutton Hoo Helmet and then shows multiple ones.)

(Adam Bushnell) Here I have the Sutton Hoo Helmet; this is a miniature replica of the Sutton Hoo Helmet. Rumoured, most people believe that it belonged to a king called King Readwald.

The time of the Anglo-Saxons was a great time for the Kingdom of Northumberland it was known as the Golden Age of Northumberland. Northumberland is a county just North of County Durham and this is the flag of Northumberland.

(Object: Adam Bushnell holds a yellow and red Northumberland flag.)

(Adam Bushnell) However, a thousand years ago in the time of the Anglo-Saxons the flag of Northumberland looked like this. This was the flag of the Kingdom of Northumberland with a dragon on it.

(Object: Adam Bushnell holds a red flag with a white dragon on it representing the Kingdom of Northumberland with a dragon on it.)

(Adam Bushnell) The oldest story in the English language was written during the Anglo-Saxon times and likely to have been written in Northumberland. It's the story

that is the Anglo-Saxon saga of Beowulf which features one of my books called, *Invade and Settle, Raid and Meddle*. Which is a collection of Anglo-Saxon and Viking myths.

(Object: Adam picks up his book, 'Invade and Settle, Raid and Meddle.' It has an image of a dragon, Viking, and an axe on the front cover.)

(Action: Adam opens the book and begins to read an extract using expression with his hands.)

(Adam Bushnell) I'm going to read you a small extract from this book. Beowulf turned to his men gathered before him and spoke,

(Adam Bushnell) "I am Beowulf, I who have battled the blood beast, clashed with the troll clan, slaying nine sea serpents. I will kill Grendel this very night. A huge roar went up and Hrothgar ordered meat and food to be brought to Heorot. Once more the Great Hall would know the sound of celebration."

(Adam Bushnell) Darkness then crept across the land and the mood changed in Heorot. The Danes began to creep off to their beds. Leaving the fifteen men from Geatland to guard Heorot, Beowulf and his Geat Warriors climbed under covers and fell asleep as they waited.

(Adam Bushnell) But they did not sleep for long the doors of Heorot were opened and in stepped gigantic Grendel. He sniffed the air around and let out a mourn of joy as he could taste the sweet smell of human blood in the air.

(Adam Bushnell) Grendel crept through the halls sniffing and tasting the air with his serpent-like tongue. Then, with an insect-like ferocity, Grendel grabbed one of Beowulf's warriors from under his covers and bit deeply. The warrior screamed a death mourn and the other fourteen men leapt into action with blood on his teeth Grendel roared his terrible roar and attacked. The warriors hacked at Grendel, but no weapon could get through his hard and bony scales.

(Adam Bushnell) The demon then lashed out knocking thirteen men across the hall where they fell unconscious. Beowulf was the only warrior left, he grabbed Grendel and with his mighty strength they began to wrestle each other. They wrestled this way and that across the whole of Heorot, but Grendel soon began to realise his error. He knew that his strength was no match for Beowulf's. He tried to retreat and headed for the door, but Beowulf's grip held fast. He grabbed the monster's arm even tighter and pulled Grendel away from his exit.

(Adam Bushnell) To and fro they went across Heorot back and forth until at last tendons began to split, bones began to burst. With an ear-splitting roar Grendel's arm was ripped off he screamed and ran off, and back to the land of Cane. There he staggered down to the beach and fell into the murky sea, dead. Back in Heorot, Hrothgar the King and the Danes appeared, and another huge celebration was held.

(Adam Bushnell) Grendel's arm was nailed to the wall and the Great Hall of Heorot was repaired. The Danes danced and sang and drank and then in silence they sat and listened to Beowulf's story.

(Adam Bushnell) So, Beowulf the hero was presented with all of these gifts. Presented with gifts a little bit like the Sutton Hoo Helmet and this Sutton Hoo Helmet that was given to the great warrior that was possibly King Readwald or possibly a hero a bit like Beowulf himself.

(Object: Camera zooms in on silver and gold Sutton Hoo Helmet and Adam Bushnell begins to hold it.)

(Adam Bushnell) Maybe you could design your own story about a great Anglo-Saxon hero a hero that battled creatures like the blood beast that Beowulf mentioned earlier. What might the creature have looked like. Could you design your own blood beast or a different kind of a beast.

(Adam Bushnell) He mentioned the troll clan as well, imagine a whole family of trolls don't think Shrek think more fearsome instead. Could you design your own troll clan that your hero could battle against, or he also mentioned nine sea serpents.

(Adam Bushnell) What might the sea serpents have looked like. Could you design your own sea serpent for your hero to battle with and then writing a narrative about the hero that fought the monster and was given a gift, a gift like the Sutton Hoo Helmet decorated with gold for a great and mighty hero.

(Action: Adam Bushnell sets the Sutton Hoo Helmet down on a table and lays his hand on the top of it whilst speaking)

(Adam Bushnell) You could design your own Anglo-Saxon myth and write it inspired by the treasures that we have at Durham Learning Resources.

(Text: Navy Blue Screen with text saying 'Durham Learning Resources' logo and a 'Durham County Council' logo.)