Grendel Zodiac References

Zodiac signs and their corresponding chapters with page numbers for specific references:

- Chapter 1: Aries (Ram) 5-6, 165
- Chapter 2: Taurus (Bull) 19-22, 23, 78
- Chapter 3: Gemini (Twins) 33, 44
- Chapter 4: Cancer (Crab) 8, 46, 48
- Chapter 5: Leo (Lion) 123
- Chapter 6: Virgo (Virgin) 77, 85, 100, 128; see harvest virgin 84, 90
- Chapter 7: Libra (Balance) 91, 92, 109, 110
- Chapter 8: Scorpio (Scorpion) 113; see Hrothulf
- Chapter 9: Sagittarius (Archer) 125 (arrow), 126-27 (bowmen)
- Chapter 10: Capricorn (Goat) 139-140, 149, 165
- Chapter 11: Aquarius (Water-Bearer) 151, 169, 170 (water), 156 (underground river; see cave), 160 (swimming; see Breca)
- Chapter 12: Pisces (Fish) 29, 72, 149, 154, 170

From Sparknotes.com

Themes and Motifs -- The Zodiac
The seasons are one example of a cycle that takes a year to complete; the zodiac, or astrological system, is another. Grendel is split into twelve chapters, each linked with one month of the year and one astrological sign. Gardner includes at least one allusion to each sign within its corresponding chapter. Chapter 1, for example, occurs under the sign of Aries, the Ram, and the ram is the creature with whom we find Grendel arguing as the novel opens. Some chapters feature their astrological signs more prominently than others: the chapters of Aries, Taurus, and Capricorn all feature significant encounters between Grendel and their representative animals. Some chapters and signs require a more interpretive reading. Wealtheow arrives during the month of Libra, the balance; appropriately, we see that she is indeed a force of balance, first between the Scyldings and the Helmings and later within Hart. The zodiac motif appears to have been a late addition to the Grendel manuscript, and critics are still divided as to how much weight its symbolism should be given.

Web links of interest:

http://www.gotohoroscope.com/meaning.html


http://www.gryphonastrology.com/zodiacsigns.html
Astrology, the Signs of the Zodiac

The zodiac is divided into twelve signs, each associated with a symbol, and each representing particular personality traits. Each chapter of Grendel is associated with a sign of the zodiac. It will be your job to connect each chapter to its associated sign. You will need to find examples from the novel to support your claims. You should provide the direct quotes from the novel and the page numbers upon which you found the quotes in your presentation and report.

You will work with your group mates (or alone, as the case may be) to compile examples of the various ways in which the zodiac sign of your chapter is represented. You should look at the action or plot sequences of the chapter; the characters’ actions, feelings, decisions, dialogue; Grendel’s thoughts and decisions; and anything else of relevance to discovering the nature of the zodiacal representations in your chapter. Don’t be surprised if, when you start delving deeper into the text, you find references all over the place. Include as many as you find. I will expect to see many, many examples, as there are plenty to be had.

You will receive a project grade for the presentation and a writing grade for the report you deliver. You will also complete a peer evaluation form on each member in your group. These evaluations will be taken into consideration when grades are determined. Each group member will be graded individually based on his/her contribution to the group’s objectives. You should choose a leader in your group who will then delegate responsibilities to the other members and make a list of those responsibilities in case something doesn’t get done.

Here’s what I’m looking for in the end:

• Multiple references to the text of Grendel including the characters, plot, themes, etc. in the form of direct quotes with page numbers.
• A report that details the examples found and a concise explanation of how and why those examples relate to the zodiac sign of your chapter and the zodiac sign’s characteristics.
• Use of one or more of the websites I have provided for you or a website you discover on your own. You should cite the website in your report and quote it directly and properly. You should also come up with examples from the book to support the conclusions you draw from the information gained from the websites.
• Equal participation!! No one person should be doing all the work, unless of course you are a group of one, literally. In the event that you are working solo, please know that you have been given a shorter chapter and that the lack of help will be taken into consideration.
• If your chapter happens to be your zodiac sign, get personal with it!! Do you think that these Astrology things are accurate at all? Why or why not?? Can you see how the sign works with the chapter more easily because you are that sun sign?
• Above all, I want to know WHY you think/feel the way that you do and HOW you came to your conclusions. Did your group agree unanimously? Were there disagreements? What happened? Why’d you choose the path you chose in the end? Could you reach an agreement on your opinions? Did you have a tough time with this assignment? Did this assignment make you more interested in the book? In Astrology? Continue to ask yourself why and how until you’ve exhausted the questions, and you’ll know that you’ve finally given me enough information.

Most of all, I want you to have fun with this. This assignment is not meant to be tedious nor is it designed to just take up time. Everything we do in here has a point. I promise. So, enjoy yourselves!! Make it fun!
Aries the Ram. Aries is energetic, innovative, original, pioneering, assertive, quick-tempered, strong drive, leader, ambitious, extroverted, sometimes aggressive, competitive, enthusiastic, self-reliant, and self-assured.

Taurus the Bull. Taurus is determined, efficient, stubborn, cautious, placid, persistent, enduring, introverted, conservative, conventional, materialistic, security conscious, stable, industrious, dependable, and one generally having significant financial ability.

Gemini the Twins. Gemini is flexible, versatile, restless, a jack-of-all-trades, lively, alert, quick-witted, literary, communicative, a good conversationalist, changeable, sociable, logical, ingenious, agile, dexterous, intellectual, and mentally ambitious.

Cancer the Crab. Cancer is introverted, reserved, emotional, sensitive, moody, sympathetic, security-conscious, prudent, retentive, domestic, maternal, protective, quiet, calm, imaginative, conscientious, and quite the traditionalist.

Leo the Lion. Leo is ambitious, a lover of limelight, speculative, extroverted, optimistic, honorable, dignified, confident, proud, exuberant, sunny, flamboyant, charismatic, dramatic, competitive, a leader and an organizer.

Virgo the Virgin. Virgo is practical, responsible, sensible, logical, analytical, highly discriminating, a careful planner, precise and punctual, dedicated, perfectionist, critical, health conscious, and somewhat introverted.

Libra the Scales. Libra is idealistic, a peacemaker, diplomatic, refined, poised, gracious, kind, courteous, fair-minded, sociable, charming, artistically creative, affable, cooperative, extroverted, and usually somewhat indecisive.

Scorpio the Scorpion. Scorpio is intense, determined, powerful, strong-willed, forceful, bold, courageous, enduring, competitive, resourceful, researcher, an investigator, secretive, mysterious, penetrating, psychic, self-reliant, and somewhat introverted or closed.

Sagittarius the Archer. Sagittarius is idealistic, optimistic, freedom-loving, casual, friendly, buoyant, gregarious, enthusiastic, philosophical, studious, farseeing, direct, outspoken, honest, loyal, restless and loves travel.

Capricorn the Goat. Capricorn is ambitious (power, position, money), organizational, self-disciplined, rigid, thrifty, prudent, security-conscious, conservative, responsible, practical, persistent, political, business oriented, methodical.

Aquarius the Water-bearer. Aquarius is individualistic, unconventional, progressive, unique, independent, humanitarian, altruistic, visionary, perceptive, intellectual, logical, ingenious, inventive, unpredictable, detached, friendly, and scientific.

Pisces the Fish. Pisces is receptive, supersensitive, impressionable, peace-loving, serious, sympathetic, charitable, compassionate, artistic, creative, dreamer, dedicated, imaginative, psychic, shy, introverted, spiritual, and reclusive.