**Answer NO-01**

The Supernatural is Something which is not according to the course of [nature](https://www.wisdomlib.org/definition/nature#natyashastra) or above or beyond nature. It denotes some matters which do not belong to the [world](https://www.wisdomlib.org/definition/world#hinduism). It is some unusual things, strange or phenomena. In using the super [natural](https://www.wisdomlib.org/definition/natural#natyashastra) [elements](https://www.wisdomlib.org/definition/element#hinduism), it is observed that an author depends on these elements in the necessity of the [story](https://www.wisdomlib.org/definition/storey#hinduism). The term “supernatural” has several meanings and is used in both everyday speech and scholarly works on philosophy, psychology and literature. In its most general meaning, the adjective “supernatural” means something not explained naturally, which is not subject to the laws of nature. In the field of fiction, the term supernatural is usually close to the concepts of fantastic and wonderful. Although this genre is often contradictory and causes a lot of criticism, great writers were able to convert it into great artworks. Something unusual, magical, always excites the reader. Both in religion and the supernatural, a person can seek evidence for the existence of anything beyond human understanding. It gives hope that short human life is not all that can be expected in the future. For these reasons, authors use the supernatural in their works. In essence, they want to capture the readers’ attention completely and through fantastic images, point them to a complex problem that requires attention. The interest readers show in supernatural events can serve as a significant factor in the work’s success. Le Guin and Márquez made extremely skilful use of the supernatural element. Through the attitude towards the supernatural characters, human vices are revealed. These short stories address an incredible number of problems that will remain relevant for subsequent generations. The purpose of the supernatural in literature can vary in function from story to story. The supernatural can be used to create a certain mood in writing or to enhance the dramatic effect of a story. The supernatural can also be used as the reasoning behind a story and act as the theme it centres on, creating a paranormal effect and a mystical experience for the reader. The use of the supernatural approach is a common practice that allows individuals to create a story’s mood. The method is also essential since it develops the dramatic effect of a tale. Supernatural elements have long played a crucial role in literature, adding depth, intrigue and a sense of wonder to storytelling. From the ancient myths and legends to modern novels and films, supernatural elements have captivated readers and helped to explore complex themes and emotions in a unique and imaginative way. One of the reasons why supernatural elements are important in literature is the escapism they provide. In a world filled with limitations and boundaries, supernatural elements allow readers to suspend their disbelief and enter into a realm of endless possibilities. Whether it be magic, ghosts or mythical creatures, these elements transport us to new worlds and allow us to explore concepts and realities beyond our own. This escape from reality can be both comforting and thrilling, as it offers a temporary relief from the mundane aspects of everyday life. Moreover, supernatural elements have the power to evoke a sense of wonder and awe in readers. The unknown and the unexplained have always intrigued human beings and incorporating supernatural elements into literature allows authors to tap into this fascination. Such elements can create a sense of mystery and intrigue, keeping readers engaged and eager to unravel the secrets and intricacies of the story. By presenting creatures and phenomena that defy the laws of nature, literature can evoke a sense of awe and inspire our imaginations to reach new heights. Furthermore, supernatural elements often serve as powerful metaphors or symbols that allow authors to explore deeper themes and emotions. By employing supernatural elements, authors can bring to life abstract concepts such as good versus evil, the battle between light and dark, or the struggle between human desires and moral obligations. These elements act as vehicles for exploring complex human emotions and universal truths, providing a deeper layer of meaning to the story. Whether it be vampires representing forbidden desires, ghosts symbolizing unresolved pasts, or magical objects signifying the allure of power, the supernatural allows authors to convey messages and provoke thought by creating fantastical connections to our own lives. In addition, supernatural elements can also be used as a means of social commentary. By presenting fantastical worlds and creatures, authors can critique and analyse various societal issues, often in a more subtle and thought-provoking way than straightforward realism allows. Through the use of supernatural elements, authors can address topics such as power dynamics, inequality, and human nature, encouraging readers to reflect on their own lives and the world around them. In conclusion, supernatural elements are an essential component of literature. They provide escapism, evoke wonder and awe, offer powerful metaphors and symbols and act as a means of social commentary. The use of supernatural elements enhances the depth and richness of storytelling, making literature a powerful tool for both entertainment and intellectual exploration.

I read a supernatural story “Beowulf”. The writer of Beowulf is anonymous. It’s neither a complete work of fiction, nor is it fully factual. It’s a great adventure story. Beowulf was written in Old English but since the language has changed significantly over time it is usually read in translation. There have been many translations, including ones by Seamus Heaney and J. R. R. Tolkien. It’s the longest and greatest surviving Anglo-Saxon poem. It’s an Old English [epic poem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic_poetry).  It’s an [epic poem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic_poetry). It is an [Old English](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_English_language) [heroic](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero) [epic poem](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epic_poetry). It’s an epic poem that is both one of the most important works in English literature, and a great adventure story. Beowulf belongs metrically, stylistically and thematically to a heroic tradition grounded in [Germanic religion and mythology](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Germanic-religion-and-mythology). It is also part of the broader tradition of [heroic poetry](https://www.britannica.com/art/heroic-poetry). Many incidents, such as the tearing-off of the monster’s arm and the hero’s descent into the mere, are familiar motifs from [folklore](https://www.britannica.com/art/folk-literature). The [ethical](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ethical) values are manifestly the Germanic code of loyalty to chief and tribe and [vengeance](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vengeance) to enemies. Beowulf himself seems more altruistic than other Germanic heroes or the ancient Greek heroes of the [Iliad](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Iliad-epic-poem-by-Homer). It is significant that his three battles are not against men, which would entail the retaliation of the [blood feud](https://www.britannica.com/topic/feud-private-war), but against evil monsters, enemies of the whole [community](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/community) and of civilization itself. Beowulf is an epic poem of unknown authorship, was likely composed between the 8th and 11th centuries. It stands as a cornerstone of Anglo-Saxon literature, embodying the heroic spirit of the time. Set in Scandinavia, the narrative follows Beowulf, a Geatish warrior, as he arrives in Denmark to assist King Hrothgar in defeating the monstrous Grendel, who terrorizes the Danes. Beowulf’s subsequent battles against Grendel’s mother and a dragon showcase themes of heroism, loyalty and the inevitable struggle against mortality. It’s the oldest surviving [epic poem](https://www.thoughtco.com/epic-literature-and-poetry-119651) in the English language and the earliest piece of vernacular European literature. Perhaps the most common question readers have is what language "Beowulf" was written in originally. The first manuscript was written in the language of the Saxons, "[Old English](https://www.thoughtco.com/old-english-anglo-saxon-1691449)," also known as "Anglo-Saxon." Since then, the epic poem has been estimated to have been translated into 65 languages. However, many translators have struggled to maintain the flow and alliteration present within the complex text. But It is not known who wrote it, and there is no agreement as to when it was written. Beowulf is 3182 lines long. [Tolkien](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tolkien) describes and illustrates many of the features of Old English poetry in his 1940 essay on translating Beowulf. The [protagonist](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protagonist) of the poem is [Beowulf](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beowulf_%28hero%29). In the poem, Beowulf fights three monsters: [Grendel](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grendel) and [Grendel's mother](https://simple.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Grendel%27s_mother&action=edit&redlink=1), and later in his life an unnamed [dragon](https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragon). Little is known about this famous epic poem's origins, unfortunately. Many believe that "Beowulf" may have been composed as an elegy for a king who died in the seventh century, but little evidence indicates who that king may have been. The burial rites described in the epic show a great similarity to the evidence found at [Sutton Hoo](http://suttonhoo.org/), but too much remains unknown to form a direct correlation between the poem and the burial site. Beowulf may have been composed as early as around 700 C.E. and evolved through many retellings before it was finally written down. Regardless, whoever the original author may have been is lost to history. "Beowulf" contains many [pagan](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-pagan-120163) and folkloric elements, but there are undeniable Christian themes as well. This dichotomy has led some to interpret the epic as the work of more than one author. Others have seen it as symbolic of the transition from paganism to Christianity in [early medieval Britain](https://www.thoughtco.com/post-roman-britain-1788725). The extreme delicacy of the manuscript, the perceived two separate hands that inscribed the text, and the complete lack of clues to the identity of the author make a realistic determination difficult at best. Originally untitled, in the 19th century the poem was eventually referred to by the name of its Scandinavian hero, whose adventures are its primary focus. While some historical elements run through the poem, the hero and the story are both fictional. The sole manuscript of "Beowulf" dates to around the year 1000. Handwriting style reveals that it was inscribed by two different people. Whether either scribe embellished or altered the original story is unknown. The earliest known owner of the manuscript was 16th-century scholar Lawrence Nowell. In the 17th century, it became part of Robert Bruce Cotton's collection and is therefore known as Cotton Vitellius A. XV. The manuscript is now in the British Library, although in 1731 the manuscript suffered irreparable damage in a fire. The first transcription of the poem was made by Icelandic scholar Grímur Jónsson Thorkelin in 1818. Since the manuscript has decayed further, Thorkelin's version is highly prized, yet its accuracy has been questioned. In 1845, the pages of the manuscript were mounted in paper frames to save them from further damage. This protected the pages, but it also covered some of the letters around the edges. In 1993, the British Library initiated the [Electronic Beowulf Project](http://www.uky.edu/~kiernan/eBeowulf/guide.htm). Through the use of special infrared and ultraviolet lighting techniques, the covered letters were revealed as electronic images of the manuscript were made. Much has been written about this epic poem, and it will surely continue to inspire scholarly investigation and debate, both literary and historical. For decades students have undertaken the difficult task of learning Old English in order to read it in its original language. The poem has also inspired fresh creative works, from Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" to Michael Crichton's "Eaters of the Dead," and it will probably continue to do so for centuries to come. Beowulf Originally written in Old English, the first translation of the poem was into Latin by Thorkelin, in connection with his transcription of 1818. Two years later Nicolai Grundtvig made the first translation into a modern language, Danish. The first translation into modern English was made by J. M. Kemble in 1837. In total, it is estimated that the epic poem has been translated into 65 languages. Since then there have been many modern English translations. The version done by Francis B. Gummere in 1919 is out of copyright and freely available at several websites. Many more recent translations, in both prose and verse form, are available today. Critics have varied in their opinion of almost every aspect of Beowulf. For Tolkien, one of the most astute, Grendel and the Dragon both are fundamental to the meaning of the poem, one a suitable beginning for the hero's exploits, the other a fitting end. Together, he regards them as framing the poem's structure and providing a contrasting description of two moments in the life of the hero: its rising and setting, youth and age, first triumph over the nearly human and final defeat by an older and more elemental force. Such monstrous foes are powerful creations of the imagination and elevate the story above history and place to one of fate and the effort of human life. It is not surprising, therefore, that Tolkien later expresses these same themes in the Lord of the Rings. The title of Beowulf is probably the most famous thing about this poem. The fact that a monster named Grendel features at some point. But because the specific details of the story are not widely known, numerous misconceptions about the poem abound. This is a matter of some conjecture, with guesses ranging anywhere between the eighth century and the first half of the eleventh century. Critics can’t even agree on what the first line of the poem means. Over the duration of the poem “Beowulf” the character Beowulf encounters with Three major beasts and battles them. This poem is the longest poem written in Old English. Old English poetry uses alliterative meter, meaning that the stressed words in a line begin with the same sound. A line of Old English poetry has two halves, with a brief pause, called a caesura, in the middle of the line. The two halves of a line are linked by the alliteration at least three words in a line alliterate. Old English poetry also uses kennings, compressed metaphors like "heaven's candle" for the sun, or "whale's road" for the sea, or calling a woman married in an effort to gain peace a "peace weaver." The author was an anonymous Anglo-Saxon poet, referred to by scholars as the “Beowulf poet.”

I see the use of Supernatural element in “Beowulf”. In contemporary society, supernatural beliefs are seen as a thing of the past; however, like many ancient artefacts in history, they represent the shared values of civilizations long dead but not yet forgotten. The impact of the supernatural is not lost in literature. The idea of the supernatural is very prevalent in Beowulf. In “Beowulf” by Seamus Heaney, Beowulf’s supernatural strength is important to an epic hero in to keep the balance between good vs evil. To begin with, evil is winning when Grendel attacks the Heorot Hall until Beowulf arrives. Supernatural in Beowulf “Beowulf” is the story of the hero who defeats three successive monsters. In the story of Beowulf there are three different references to supernatural beings. There are demons and monsters through the story that live amongst people. In Beowulf, strangely puts the monsters at the centre of the structure, showing the similarities between the creatures of the natural and the unnatural worlds, thus creating a unified world in which both creatures can exist. In the text, Beowulf initially appears to the reader as a completely natural man. As Beowulf battles against three monsters, however, the audience learns not only about the monsters, but about Beowulf’s supernatural powers as well. The monsters that Beowulf faces on his journey represent the supernatural world. All of the monsters are outcasts of society and demonstrate evil ways. However, all of the monsters possess natural characteristics, despite how much evil they have within. The poem’s centralization around the three monsters helps to expose how certain characteristics aren’t only confined to one world, while also emphasizing the connection between the two worlds that members of each world fail to recognize. A monster can have natural characteristics, while a human can have supernatural characteristics. Prior to Beowulf’s first battle against Grendel, we are introduced to Heorot. Heorot does not only represent the greatest hall of hero’s, but it represents a place of civilization, light, warmth, and great pleasure. On the contrary, Grendel lives in a swamp in the marshes. The wetlands are a dark and isolated place where Grendel and his mother live in solitude. The swamp represents evilness and shows how Grendel is “the other” in comparison to the Danes. The environment Grendel and his mother reside in show how unnatural the “Cain” descent is. Both Grendel and his mother are separated from civilization because of their demonic qualities. Grendel is extremely envious of Hrothgar and his people because they live in civilization, while Grendel lives in isolation. As an individual, Grendel symbolizes the human characteristic of envy. He wants to fit in with the Danes in Heorot but since he is a Cain, he is unable to. Hence, he kills many Danes and forces them to live in fear every night until Beowulf comes to their rescue. When Beowulf fights Grendel, he refuses to wear any armour or use any weapons, with the exception of his bear hands. With his bare hands, Beowulf beat Grendel, demonstrating supernatural qualities of abnormal strength. He was able to kill a supernatural monster without the use of any weapons. Grendel appears to be the shadowed side Beowulf, showing the resemblance that the two have. Next, Beowulf must battle Grendel’s mother who wishes to seek revenge for the loss of her son. Grendel’s mother symbolizes the natural quality of revenge. Just as natural humans feel remorse for the loss of their loved ones, monsters do as well. Beowulf swims to the bottom of the sea floor and fights Grendel’s mother. Not only does Beowulf have the supernatural qualities of being able to sustain oneself under water for long periods of time, but he also proves he is not vulnerable to the bites of several sea creatures who reside at the bottom of the water. Again, these characteristics are supernatural and non-human like. The last monster that Beowulf battles, is a dragon. The dragon, although supernatural and evil, possesses the natural, human-like qualities of greed and pride. After the dragon’s hoard is stolen, he goes to retrieve it back. When he realizes that he is unable to find it, he begins to attack by breathing fire to kill people. The fire that the dragon breathes is supernatural. The dragon also has possession of many treasures, which demonstrates that he wants wealth just as much as humans do. After the battle with the dragon, both Beowulf and the dragon die. This proves the natural characteristics that both have, as they both did not live eternally. Overall, the three monsters show the supernatural world in comparison to the natural world and how each world is able to intertwine. We see the state of battle that existed in Anglo-Saxon culture in the 700s, with a twist of supernatural qualities, to show that supernatural and natural worlds can coexist with each other without the constant need for war.

That’s how I see the use of Supernatural element in “Beowulf”.