

In *Beowulf* and *Arthur* warriors and monsters dominate the epic poem, but women still play important roles. The way they are viewed in the poem gives a glimpse into the cultures and minds of the males of the time. Wealtheow as the good girl is everything desirable in a woman: beautiful, courteous and places her husband above all other men. *Guinevere* is also a good girl, but flawed in that she commits adultery and the result is the destruction of Camelot and the “death” of Arthur. However, after her fall, she repents and becomes a nun, submitting to God. However in her fall we see a change in the good girl from a perfect mate to a woman capable of great evil, as her actions destroyed the kingdom. Grendel’s mother however, is a cursed descendent of Cain,

beastlike, and savage. Arthur's Morgana is evil as well as she is a witch, and commits incest and conspires to take the kingdom from Arthur through Modred. However, Morgana's mother is Igraine a beautiful woman, and Morgana is in Camelot, so it can be assumed she is a person, and not a beast. Here we also see a shift toward a middle ground in the stereotypes in that the "beast" of the bad girl is now a person.

They each in their own way fulfill the stereotypes of the good and bad girl respectively. There is a movement in Arthur of both stereotypes toward a sort of middle ground where a woman can be good and evil at the same time. She can be evil in that she will destroy good men with sex or feminine wiles, and in opposition as pure as a nun.