

The epic poem Beowulf and the novel Le Morte D'Arthur by Mallory is a tale of warriors and monsters, epic battles and of women. When looking at the women of these texts, two different stereotypes emerge: the good girl and the bad girl. A good girl in that time was one who was submissive to her husband, attractive, and knew etiquette. The bad girl was not any of these and was the polar opposite: she was ugly, generally violent, and inherently evil. In Beowulf, Wealtheow and Guinevere in Arthur fill the role of the good girl. Grendel's mother in Beowulf and Arthur's Morgana are the bad girls.