In the introduction of *Beowulf*, Seamus Heaney says, “The ‘Finnsburg episode’ envelops us in a society that is at once honour-bound and blood-stained, presided over by the laws of the blood-feud, where the kin of a person slain are bound to exact a price for the death, either by slaying the killer or by receiving satisfaction in the form of wergild (the ‘man-price’), a legally fixed compensation (xiii-xiv).

Blood-feuds are nothing new to our history.

Think about *Beowulf* and blood-feuds in American history. How are they alike? How are they different? What do you think about reading the poem and history this way? Explain in detail and be willing to discuss.