Similarities and Differences between original poem and film to consider:

Original: arrogant, braggart hero

Film: same as above

Original: Grendel is a literal monster descended from Cain, the first murderer in the Bible

Film: Grendel is a monster, but Hrothgar is his father

Original: Grendel kills because of religious singing

Film: Grendel kills because he heated singing/noise in general

Original: Beowulf embraces Christianity, mentioning multiple times that he will be successful if God wills it

Film: Christianity is rejected by Hrothgar and not mentioned by Beowulf

Original: Beowulf chops off Grendel’s arm as a trophy

Film: Beowulf cuts Grendel's arm off by slamming it in a door, and chops most of his own arm off to kill the dragon later

Original: Beowulf kills Grendel's mother, and is always honest

Film: Beowulf sleeps with Grendel's mother in exchange for glory, and then lies about it

Original: Hrothgar is an innocent king

Film: Hrothgar hides the secret that he's Grendel’s father

Original: Beowulf saves Hrothgar and his people, leaves and becomes king on Beowulf's homeland

Film: Hrothgar kills himself and Beowulf becomes King of Hrothgar's people

Original: Beowulf never marries

Film: Beowulf "inherits" the queen Wealthow, to whom he is unfaithful

Original: Beowulf fights a dragon who is attacking his people, both to save his people and to take the dragon's treasure

Film: same as above except the dragon is Beowulf's son with Grendel's mother, and there si no treasure

Original: Beowulf wants to be remembered as a hero who gave his life for his people

Film: Beowulf wants to be remembered as just a man

Original: Wiglaf is the only one who stands beside Beowulf against the dragon

Film: same as above

Original: Beowulf wins the treasure from the dragon and wills it to his people

Film: No treasure

Original: Beowulf asks for a tower to be built in his honor, and to be buried there (Christian burial tradition)

Film: Beowulf's body is burned in a boat, which is Anglo-Saxon tradition

Original: Beowulf's people place all the treasure in the tower out of guilt they didn't help with the dragon

Film: Wiglaf is tempted by Grendel's mother