



WORLD MYTHOLOGY

Journeys and Quests Unit Study Questions

Epic of Gilgamesh – Mesopotamian (F76-84)

1. Describe Gilgamesh.
2. Describe Enkidu. Why was he created?
3. What happens as a result of Enkidu meeting the woman?
4. How did Enkidu and Gilgamesh react upon meeting each other? How does this change later?
5. Describe Humbaba. What do Enkidu and Gilgamesh do to him?
6. What does Ishtar offer Gilgamesh? How does he react and why?
7. In what two ways does Ishtar exact revenge?
8. Why does Gilgamesh seek Uta-Napishtim, and how does he reach him? Be specific.
9. What two ways for obtaining eternal youth does Uta-Napishtim suggest to Gilgamesh? What happens?
10. Compare the snake that ruins Gilgamesh's plans to the snake in the Garden of Eden in the Bible.

Sigurd the Volsung – Norse (R228-252)

Chapter 1

1. Describe the old visitor, and the challenge that he issues. Who meets the challenge?



2. What circumstances brought about Sigmund's death? What instructions does Sigmund give his wife before he dies?

Chapter 2

3. Who helps Sigurd choose his horse, and how does he do so? What do we learn about this horse?

4. What does Regin encourage Sigurd to seek, and why?

5. Describe Regin and his brothers.

6. What happens when the three gods come to Andvari's Forge? How does Hreidmar demand that they make up for this?

7. How does Loki meet this requirement?

8. Who eventually ends up with all the treasure, and how did he accomplish this?

Chapter 3

9. What does Sigurd's uncle tell him?

10. Which sword does Sigurd eventually choose, and how does he test it?

11. How does Regin suggest that Sigurd should kill Fafnir? What does Odin suggest?

12. How does Sigurd begin to understand the birds? What do they say about dragon's blood, about the heart of the dragon, about Regin, and about what Sigurd should do?

Chapter 4

13. Describe Sigurd's appearance, wisdom, and entertainment.



14. Where does Sigurd find Brunhild?

15. What is a Valkyrie and why is Brunhild no longer one? What are the other aspects of her punishment?

16. What advice does Brunhild give Sigurd, and what prophecy does she give him?

Chapter 5

17. How does Sigurd forget Brunhild, and what happens as a result?

18. How does Sigurd help Gunnar win Brunhild?

19. Describe the quarrel between Brunhild and Gudrun. How does it end?

Chapter 6

20. Why is Brunhild angry with Gunnar and Sigurd, and what does she resolve to do as a result?

21. What do Hogni and Gunnar resolve to do, and why do they choose Guttorm to do it?

22. How does Gudrun unknowingly assist in the plot?

23. What story will Gunnar and Hogni give to explain their crime?

Chapter 7

24. What does Brunhild do?

Mwindo – Zaire, Africa (R452-463)

1. What pronouncement does Chief Shemwindo make?

2. What odd things happen during Nyamwindo's pregnancy?



3. Describe Mwindo and how he was born.
4. Why does Shemwindo grow fearful of his son?
5. Who and what helps Mwindo?
6. What does Mwindo set out to do?
7. Describe the battle between Mwindo's and Shemwindo's forces. How does Mwindo eventually conquer the village?
8. Where does Shemwindo lead Mwindo? What advice does the Spirit of Good Fortune give Mwindo?
9. What tasks does Master Muisa give Mwindo?
10. What does Mwindo do upon his return to the village?
11. What decisions do Mwindo, Shemwindo, and the people come to regarding their power?
12. What good and bad things result from the killing of the dragon?
13. What order does Master Lightning and his companions give Mwindo?
14. Compare this myth to the myths of the Aeneid, the Odyssey, and Sigurd the Volsung.

Heracles – Greek/Roman (F142-151)

1. How did Heracles come to be born? Who were his mother, father, and maternal grandfather?
2. What pronouncement does Zeus make, and how does Hera foil the plan?



3. How does Hera toy with Heracles' childhood? With his marriage?

4. What does the oracle command Heracles to do?

5. Describe Heracles' twelve labors.

first:

second:

third:

fourth:

fifth:

sixth:

seventh:

eighth:

ninth:

tenth:

eleventh:

twelfth:

6. Compare this myth to the myth of Mwindo.