



WORLD MYTHOLOGY

Monsters, Beasts, & Creatures Unit Study Questions

Beowulf and Grendel – Anglo Saxon (P106-107)

1. What is Grendel? How is it described?
2. Why was Grendel angered? What did it do?
3. Who is Beowulf? What does Beowulf propose to do? How is this received?
4. Describe the role Grendel's mother plays in the myth.

Indra and the Dragon – Indian (R330-333)

1. What does Vritra do, and what problems does this cause?
2. Who is Indra, what does he decide to do, and how does he prepare for this?
3. How is Vritra different from one's "normal" conception of a dragon?
4. Do you think that the ease with which Indra kills Vritra makes sense, considering what the story tells us about Vritra and the fear it inspired? Why or why not?
5. Who comes to avenge the death of Vritra? Compare this to the myth of Grendel.

Ahaiyuta and the Cloud Eater – Native American (R503-506)

1. What does Cloud Eater do, and what result does this have?
2. Who is Ahaiyuta? What does his grandmother give him to help him on his quest?
3. What role does the gopher play in this myth?
4. What does this myth tell you about Native American views on drought?

Bulls from the Sea – Greek (F152-157)

1. What is Zeus' role in this story?



2. Why did Poseidon grow angry with Minos? What does Poseidon do as a result of this anger?
3. How does Pasiphae get what she wants? What is the result?
4. Who is Theseus? What does he set out to do?
5. What role does Ariadne play in helping Theseus?
6. How does Theseus “repay” Ariadne?

Thor in the Land of the Giants – Norse (P118-124)

1. Why do Thor and Loki travel to Jotunheim?
2. How do Thor and Loki end up getting two servants?
3. What happens when the group meets Skrymir?
4. What are the five competitions between the group and the giants, and what is the outcome of each?
5. How were Thor and his companions tricked? Be specific – describe each instance of trickery.

The Firebird – Russian (website)

1. What was the job of the two children? What problem occurs? Who is causing it?
2. What task does the Tsar give to Ivan?
3. What animal does Ivan meet in the forest? How do they help each other?
4. Who is Koshchei the Deathless, and what has he done?
5. According to Koshchei, where is the Firebird?
6. How would you characterize Ivan? What sort of hero is he?
7. How do the wolf, Ivan, and the princess vanquish Koshchei?
8. What happens when the group arrives back home to the castle?
9. How does the Firebird save the day? Compare this Firebird to “Fawkes the Phoenix” in Harry Potter.