

Name _____
Period _____

***Gilgamesh* Reading Guide Grade 10**

Introduction (pages 136-137)

1. *Gilgamesh* was written in _____,
2. It is older than _____.
3. Gilgamesh was a _____ who lived _____.
4. The earliest manuscript fragments date from _____.
5. It was put in its most complete form _____.
6. Gilgamesh is a _____ who is _____
and _____.
7. He possesses both _____.
8. He suffers from _____.
9. This version of the epic is based on _____ found in
_____.
10. *Gilgamesh* serves as an _____ for later _____
_____.
11. Epic (not on handout)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____

Opening (pages 139-140)

12. Gilgamesh is king of _____.

13. He can be described as _____, _____,
_____, and _____.

14. Enkidu is _____ who has been raised by
_____.

15. They anger the gods by _____
_____.

16. The punishment is that _____.

“The Death of Enkidu”

17. Describe the “awful being” in Enkidu’s dream.

Appearance _____

Actions _____

18. Irkalla is _____

19. Describe Irkalla’s palace.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

20. When he woke up, Enkidu felt _____.

21. How is this dream similar to or different from your views of an afterlife?

“The Search for Everlasting Life”

22. Gilgamesh decides to search for _____.

23. Utnapishtim lives _____.

24. Describe Gilgamesh’s encounter with the lions. _____

25. Name and describe who guards the gate at the twin mountain peaks. _____

26. Why is this character so impressed with Gilgamesh? _____

27. What is on the other side of the passage of darkness? _____

28. How does Siduri react when she sees Gilgamesh? Why? _____

29. What is her advice to Gilgamesh? _____

30. Who is Urshanabi? _____

31. What is unique about Utnapishtim? _____

32. What rhetorical questions does Utnapishtim use to answer Gilgamesh’s request to know the secret of eternal life?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

What point are these rhetorical questions making? _____

“The Story of the Flood”

33. Who is telling this part of the story? _____

34. What were the humans doing that irritated the gods? _____

35. What did the gods decide to do? _____

36. What does Ea tell Utnapishtim to do? _____

37. What human emotions do the gods experience? Give examples from the reading.

a. _____

b. _____

38. How does Utnapishtim determine if it were safe to leave the boat? _____

39. What is the main point of the italicized lines on page 148? _____

40. What does Enlil do for Utnapishtim and his wife? _____

_____ Why does he do this? _____

“The Return”

41. What test does he give Gilgamesh? _____

What does the bread prove? _____

42. Describe the ritual Gilgamesh participates in before he leaves for home. _____

43. What additional gift does Utnapishtim offer Gilgamesh? _____

What happens when Gilgamesh tries to get it? _____

44. What does Gilgamesh learn from his journey?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

45. What parts of the story parallel other ancient stories?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

45. Is Gilgamesh an epic hero? Defend your response.
