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PRENTICE HALL LITERATURE

Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes

World Masterpieces

Formal Assessment

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from The Epic of Gilgamesh

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

Critical Reading

- _____ 1. The main function of the Prologue to *The Epic of Gilgamesh* is to
 - a. tell about Gilgamesh's birth and family.
 - b. tell about Gilgamesh's background and feats, some of which the epic will later recount.
 - c. give the reader a better understanding of the poet-historian who composed the epic.
 - d. describe ancient Sumer, where the epic takes place.
- _____ 2. Which quality most clearly sets Gilgamesh apart from other Sumerians?
 - a. He is a faithful friend.
 - b. He shows compassion toward his enemies.
 - c. He knows how to prepare for a fierce battle.
 - d. He is part human and part god.
- _____ 3. Which cultural detail is most helpful in understanding Sumerian religious beliefs?
 - a. Enki was the god of wisdom.
 - b. Gilgamesh built a temple with brick.
 - c. Uruk was an important city.
 - d. The number seven was significant.
- _____ 4. Which statement best describes Enkidu?
 - a. He is a childhood friend of Gilgamesh's.
 - b. He starts out as Gilgamesh's enemy but winds up his friend.
 - c. He starts out as Gilgamesh's friend but winds up his enemy.
 - d. He is part man and part god.
- _____ 5. What is the main reason that Gilgamesh overcomes Humbaba in battle?
 - a. Enkidu coaches Gilgamesh's every move.
 - b. A scorching wind brings Humbaba to Gilgamesh.
 - c. The god Shamash uses his powers to help Gilgamesh.
 - d. Humbaba is a coward and runs from Gilgamesh.
- _____ 6. What important lesson does Gilgamesh learn after the battle with Humbaba?
 - a. A brave victory cannot ensure the pleasure of the gods.
 - b. Enkidu cannot be trusted as a friend.
 - c. Enkidu's advice should not be heeded.
 - d. The people of Uruk will never appreciate his achievements.
- _____ 7. Compared with Enkidu, which statement is true of Gilgamesh?
 - a. He seems more self-confident.
 - b. He seems humbler.
 - c. He seems more loyal.
 - d. He seems more thoughtful.
- _____ 8. What is the hero's quest in *The Epic of Gilgamesh*?
 - a. Enkidu's confrontation with Humbaba
 - b. Utnapishtim's construction of a boat
 - c. Gilgamesh's search for the secret of immortality
 - d. Enlil's complaint of the din created by humankind

- _____ 9. What is the main event that prompts Gilgamesh's quest?
- becoming king of Uruk
 - the death of Humbaba
 - the death of Enkidu
 - the flood
- _____ 10. How is Utnapishtim able to survive the flood?
- The other gods prevent Enlil from hurting him.
 - Ea instructs him in a dream.
 - His immortality allows him to survive.
 - He begs Enlil to spare him.
- _____ 11. Why does Gilgamesh seek out Utnapishtim?
- He knows Utnapishtim is the wisest man in the world.
 - He wants Utnapishtim to tell him how to become immortal.
 - He wants to learn how to survive a flood.
 - He wants to avenge the death of his friend Enkidu.
- _____ 12. Which character trait does Utnapishtim exhibit in the "The Story of the Flood"?
- attention to detail
 - reliance on others
 - emotional reserve
 - extreme caution
- _____ 13. What does the archetypal nature of the hero's quest suggest?
- It is a well-known plot too often repeated.
 - It somehow taps into widespread human desires.
 - Everyone familiar with quest stories will guess the outcome.
 - Quests are an important part of Sumerian religion.
- _____ 14. Which lesson do the quest and its outcome seem to impart?
- Many a hero has followed a foolish quest.
 - Immortality, though rarely bestowed, is an important human goal.
 - Kings are nearly as powerful as the gods.
 - A human's desire for immortality cannot be realized.
- _____ 15. Which sentence from *The Epic of Gilgamesh* contains a detail most likely to help readers appreciate the cultural context of the work?
- "I will tell the lady your mother all your glorious deeds."
 - "He slapped his thigh in scorn."
 - "I made a sacrifice and poured out a libation on the mountain top."
 - "After twenty leagues they broke their fast."

Vocabulary and Grammar

- _____ 16. In which sentence is *teemed* used correctly?
- After the bell rang, the hallway *teemed* with students.
 - The soccer *teemed* at the field at noon.
 - Is the main character brave, or is she *teemed*?
 - My baby sister cried constantly when she *teemed*.
- _____ 17. Which word below best completes this sentence?
- The United Nations meeting was a(n) _____ of many languages.
- babel
 - immolation
 - incantation
 - succor

- _____ 18. Which word contains a Latin prefix that means “under” or “down”?
- a. incantation b. ecstasy c. immolation d. subsided
- _____ 19. Which sentence does *not* use *in* or *into* correctly?
- a. Humbaba lives *in* the forest.
 b. Gilgamesh goes *in* the forest in search of Humbaba.
 c. Utnapishtim leapt *into* the boat.
 d. At the well, Gilgamesh goes *into* the cool water.
- _____ 20. Which statement correctly distinguishes between *in* and *into*?
- a. *In* is a preposition; *into* is an adverb.
 b. *Into* is an adverb; *in* is a preposition.
 c. Unlike *in*, *into* is used to show motion.
 d. Unlike *into*, *in* is used to show motion.

Essay

Essay Questions

21. In a brief essay, analyze the heroic qualities that Gilgamesh possesses and those that he lacks. Cite examples from the epic to support your analysis.
22. In the story of a hero’s quest, the goal must be an important objective, usually something that most people would like to possess. The quest then presents a series of hurdles or challenges that the hero must overcome to reach the goal. Sometimes the hero receives help from the outside; sometimes he or she does not. Write an essay in which you describe how *The Epic of Gilgamesh* fulfills or does not fulfill the conditions of a quest story.
23. What ideas and values were important to the ancient Sumerians? What did they expect of their rulers and heroes? How did they expect people to treat one another and conduct themselves in their daily lives? Answer these questions in an essay explaining what *The Epic of Gilgamesh* reveals about the values, morals, and standards of behavior of ancient Sumer.

New Kingdom Love Lyrics

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

Critical Reading

- _____ 1. Which statement best describes the dramatic context of “The Voice of the Swallow, Flittering, Calls to Me”?
 - a. A bird tries to encourage a woman to stay with her lover.
 - b. A man tries to persuade a woman to give up her work.
 - c. A man tries to keep his lover from leaving.
 - d. A woman decides whether to stay with the man she loves.

- _____ 2. Whom does the speaker address in “The Voice of the Swallow, Flittering, Calls to Me”?
 - a. her lover
 - b. herself
 - c. a bird
 - d. love

- _____ 3. What is meant by this line from “The Voice of the Swallow, Flittering, Calls to Me”?
My heart, dear sister, sings in his hand— / love never harmed a winged creature.
 - a. The speaker is not at all bound by her love.
 - b. The speaker wishes she were free to fly away and is sad that she cannot.
 - c. The speaker trusts her lover and gives him her freedom.
 - d. The speaker wishes she were a winged creature, so that love would not harm her.

- _____ 4. In “Most Beautiful Youth Who Ever Happened,” the speaker really wants to
 - a. be the youth’s housekeeper.
 - b. tell the youth how much she loves him.
 - c. be far away with her love.
 - d. make the youth feel bad that he is away from her.

- _____ 5. Which is the speaker’s strongest statement of her feelings in “Most Beautiful Youth Who Ever Happened”?
 - a. “I want to take your house as housekeeper. . . .”
 - b. “we are arm in arm. . . .”
 - c. “I am like someone already in the grave.”
 - d. “my heart seeks you out.”

- _____ 6. What ails the speaker of “I Think I’ll Go Home and Lie Very Still”?
 - a. his terminal illness
 - b. his love for a woman
 - c. his inquisitive neighbors
 - d. his weariness with the world

- _____ 7. What does the speaker of “I Think I’ll Go Home and Lie Very Still” say will happen when the neighbors arrive?
 - a. His love will smile at the trick he is playing.
 - b. Everyone will be amused at his cleverness in deceiving them.
 - c. His doctors will see that he is not physically ill and will snarl.
 - d. He will suddenly recover from his ailment.

- _____ 8. What is the speaker’s tone in “I Think I’ll Go Home and Lie Very Still”?
 - a. angry
 - b. adoring
 - c. excited
 - d. playful

- _____ 9. In “The Voice of the Wild Goose,” how does the speaker feel about her situation?
a. conflicted b. ecstatic c. serene d. bitter
- _____ 10. What does the speaker hear in the wild goose’s cry?
a. a plea for freedom c. her mother’s accusing voice
b. an echo of her own situation d. the voice of her lover
- _____ 11. Why has the speaker of “The Voice of the Wild Goose” not set her traps that day?
a. Love has taken away her will to do anything but dream or her lover.
b. She feels sorry for the birds and decides not to trap any more.
c. Her lover has trapped her, and she cannot move.
d. She identifies with the trapped wild goose because she is in love.
- _____ 12. What is the principal contrast between the speakers of the two poems that involve images of birds—“The Voice of the Swallow, Flittering, Calls to Me” and “The Voice of the Wild Goose”?
a. One thinks about a swallow and the other about a wild goose.
b. One remains completely free, while the other is a captive.
c. One is loved, and the other is unloved.
d. One is happy, and the other is troubled.
- _____ 13. All four of the New Kingdom poems are focused primarily on
a. nature. b. relationships. c. death. d. freedom.
- _____ 14. In all four of the New Kingdom poems, love is *never* seen as
a. a trap. b. a source of joy. c. an illness. d. a song.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- _____ 15. If someone is *feigning* courage, you can assume that he or she is
a. braver than most other people. c. braver than he or she seems.
b. probably frightened. d. laughing secretly.
- _____ 16. Which of the following nouns could be described by the adjective *laden*?
a. table b. pillow c. lamp d. pencil
- _____ 17. Which of the following words can be an adjective that means “causing death”?
a. terminal b. laden c. feigning d. flittering
- _____ 18. Which sentence uses the word *troop* as it is used in “I Think I’ll Go Home and Lie Very Still”?
a. The military plane detected enemy troop movements around the besieged city.
b. A whole troop of people came to watch the film crew set up.
c. The scout troop was led by several of the parents.
d. There are too many of us to troop into the restaurant and expect seats.
- _____ 19. How many compound nouns are there in the following sentence?
The woman who daydreams that she is her lover’s housekeeper says wholeheartedly that her lover is her well-being and her life.
a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4
- _____ 20. Which of the words in the following sentence is a compound noun?
The speaker imagines that her lover, who is abed, will walk with her at sunrise alongside the river and call her his bright-eyed girl.
a. abed b. sunrise c. alongside d. bright-eyed

Essay

Essay Questions

21. In a brief essay, examine the dramatic context of one of the four New Kingdom poems. Discuss the speaker's situation, showing how details in the poem help you infer its dramatic context.
22. Write a brief essay about the view of love presented in all four of the New Kingdom poems. Begin by describing the view of love presented by the poems as a group. Then, explore each speaker's attitude toward the loved one and his or her feelings about being in love. To what extent are these feelings positive or negative? Which poem presents the happiest view of love? Which presents the saddest? Consider what these attitudes and feelings have to say about love in general.
23. Based on your reading of the New Kingdom poems, what do you think ancient Egyptians and modern Americans have in common? Respond to this question in an essay, and use evidence from all four poems in your discussion.

from the Bible: Genesis 1–3, “The Creation and the Fall,” and Genesis 6–9, “The Story of the Flood”

Multiple Choice

Identify the letter of the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.

Critical Reading

- _____ 1. Which of these archetypal settings is best illustrated in the opening paragraph of Genesis?
 - a. a plant that connects heaven and earth
 - b. a starless night
 - c. a great sea that cleanses the human spirit
 - d. a universe of opposites
- _____ 2. What are God’s first words in the Creation?
 - a. “Let there be light.”
 - b. “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water.”
 - c. He called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night.
 - d. “Be fertile and increase.”
- _____ 3. Of the following living things, which does God create first?
 - a. sea monsters b. birds c. trees d. insects
- _____ 4. Which detail most clearly stresses humanity’s special place among living things?
 - a. God creates Adam from earth’s dust.
 - b. God creates Eve to keep Adam company.
 - c. God creates Adam in God’s image.
 - d. God creates Eve from Adam’s rib.
- _____ 5. Which phrase best describes the Garden of Eden?
 - a. a lush paradise c. a farm with several crops
 - b. a barren wasteland d. an overgrown jungle
- _____ 6. Which phrase best describes Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?
 - a. selfish and greedy c. hard-working and obedient
 - b. innocent and gullible d. frivolous and wasteful
- _____ 7. What does the serpent most clearly seem to represent?
 - a. human hunger for knowledge c. temptation to evil
 - b. the animal kingdom d. Eve’s conscience
- _____ 8. Which of the following do the stories of the Creation and the Garden of Eden *not* help to explain?
 - a. the origin of human suffering c. the reason snakes have no limbs
 - b. the origin of resting on the Sabbath d. the reason God created the earth
- _____ 9. Why does God cause the Flood?
 - a. to end a terrible drought c. to reduce the population
 - b. to reward Noah and his family d. to punish humanity for its sins
- _____ 10. Which word best describes the kind of person Noah is?
 - a. virtuous b. bossy c. gullible d. unskilled

- _____ 11. Which of these archetypal settings is central to “The Story of the Flood”?
- a garden paradise
 - a boat on which life survives
 - a river crossed when a person dies
 - a sea that parts miraculously
- _____ 12. In “The Story of the Flood,” which of these events happens first?
- Noah sends out a raven that cannot find a place to land.
 - Noah sends out a dove that comes back with an olive leaf.
 - The ark comes to rest on the mountains of Ararat.
 - The rain stops but the waters continue to swell for some time.
- _____ 13. Which characteristic does God most clearly display in Chapters 1–3 and 6–9 of Genesis?
- mercy
 - power
 - an air of mystery
 - a sense of humor
- _____ 14. What sort of detail does the Bible typically provide to help pinpoint events chronologically?
- It describes changes to places, such as Eden and Mount Ararat, over time.
 - It states the year according to the lunar calendar of the Jewish religion.
 - At the start of each chapter, it indicates how many days have passed since the creation.
 - It lists generations of descendants in the families of the characters in the Bible.
- _____ 15. Which of these archetypal settings is *not* clearly illustrated in Chapters 1–3 and 6–9 of Genesis?
- an ideal place
 - a landscape that emerges from watery chaos
 - a communal hall where people congregate
 - a universe comprised of opposites

Vocabulary and Grammar

- _____ 16. Which word best describes the serpent in the Garden of Eden?
- void
 - comprised
 - shrewd
 - duped
- _____ 17. The Bible says that after the incident in Eden, women and serpents will have *enmity* between them. What does that statement suggest?
- Women and snakes will be hostile to each other.
 - Women will recognize the value of snakes in the cycle of nature.
 - Women and snakes will never again have contact.
 - In general, women will be more forgiving than men.
- _____ 18. What *covenant* is made in this Chapters 1–3 or 6–9 of Genesis?
- God orders Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree of knowledge.
 - The serpent tricks Eve into disobeying God’s command.
 - Eve persuades Adam to join her in disobeying God’s command.
 - God promises Noah that he will never again destroy all of humanity.
- _____ 19. What changes, if any, would you make to this sentence?
- God said “Did you eat of the tree from which I had forbidden you to eat?”
- Add a comma after *said*.
 - Eliminate the quotation marks.
 - Place the question mark after the closing quotation mark.
 - The sentence is correct as it is.

- _____ 20. Which sentence is correctly punctuated?
- a. He said to the woman, "Did God really say you shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?
 - b. The woman replied to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the other trees".
 - c. The Lord God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"
 - d. God said to the woman, "What is this you have done"!

Essay

Essay Questions

- 21. Write a short essay describing of the Garden of Eden. Explain what it looks like and why it is a paradise, or ideal place. Base the essay on your reading of Genesis.
- 22. Write an essay about the relationship between God and human beings in Chapters 1–3 and 6–9 of Genesis. Discuss the benefits or rewards that human beings receive from God and the reasons God punishes Adam, Eve, and other human beings.
- 23. Discuss at least four different practices or aspects of human experience that Chapters 1–3 and 6–9 of Genesis help to explain. You might begin with the creation itself.