Mr. Valentine’s 10th Grade English – Honors – Unit V, Week 3-4 – *The Monkey King* by Wu Ch’eng-en

*Answers to the following questions are taken from the above-mentioned abridged version of Journey to the West*, *Chapters 1-18 (pgs 20-173 in pdf page numbers).*

Before You Read

1. Journey to the West, aka The Monkey King, aka Monkey, is an epic from which Asian country?

2. Which religion features most prominently in this epic?

Chapters 1-7

3. Who is Monkey (aka Sun Wukong), and how did he come to be?

4. Who is the Jade Emperor, and what is his relation to Taoism? Chinese Buddhism?

5. What is the Mountain of Flowers and Fruit (aka Flower-Fruit Mountain)?

6. What is the Cave of the Water Curtain, and how does it lead to Monkey becoming the Monkey King?

7. After coming to inhabit the Water Curtain Cave, the Monkeys eventually learn of what unfortunate truth of life? What does this motivate Monkey to do?

8. Who is Yama? Who does and does not go to him, eventually? What does this say about their afterlife?

9. Who is Immortal Subodhi, and why does Monkey seek him?

10. Immortal Subodhi gives Monkey the name Sun Wukong here, in the full unabridged translation of the book. I’m just going to give this information to you as question ten. You don’t have to fill anything in – just know it.

11. What does Subodhi do when Monkey shows off? What happens?

12. What has happened to the monkeys of Water Curtain Cave in Monkey’s absence?

13. How does Monkey deal with them? Do his new powers help?

14. Why does Monkey seek the Dragon of the Eastern Sea, and what does he gain from him?

15. After hearing the complaints of the Dragon of the Eastern Sea, what does the Jade Emperor do to keep Monkey out of trouble?

16. How does Monkey ruin the apple feast (peach feast in the original translation)?

17. When none of the Taoist deities can defeat Monkey King, who does? What is the author saying about Buddhism vs. Taoism by doing this?

Chapter 8

18. Who is Kuan-Yin (aka Guan-yin), and what does she ask the Buddha permission to do?

19. What does Kuan-Yin do to the monster of the River of Sands, and what becomes his name?

20. What does Kuan-Yin do to the pig creature she meets, and what becomes his name?

Chapter 9

21. Ch’en of Ch’ang-an takes his exams, marries, and travels to become governor of Chiang-chou. What happens when he, his wife, and his mother stay at the Hotel of Ten Thousand Flowers, and he catches a fish?

22. What happens to Ch’en after he and his wife leave the Inn? How does the “fish” repay Ch’en?

23. What happens to Ch’en’s wife?

24. Why does Mrs. Ch’en try not to provoke Liu?

25. What does Mrs. Ch’en do with her son to protect him from Liu? How does she mark him?

26. Who takes in and raises the child? (Soon Hsuan Tsang, later known as Tripitaka)

27. What does Hsuan Tsang do when he finds out about his true parentage and their fates?

28. What does the Emperor of China do when he finds out about Liu killing and impersonating Ch’en?

29. What does the Dragon King do for Ch’en after that?

Chapter 12

30. What does Kuan-Yin do when she finds / meets Hsuan Tsang? What new name does he receive?

Chapters 13-14

31. Is Tripitaka’s journey an easy one?

32. Who does Tripitaka free and enlist for help?

33. How are Monkey’s impulses with regard to the tiger and the thieves a little different from the ideals of Buddhism?

34. How does Tripitaka feel about his killing? And how does Monkey respond?

35. Who talks Monkey into returning?

36. What does Kuan-Yin give Tripitaka to trick Monkey? How does it work?

37. How does Monkey’s behavior change after that?

Chapter 15

38. What happens early on to Tripitaka’s horse?

39. Monkey grows angry with Kuan-yin. Why?

40. What reasons does she give for giving Tripitaka the cap?

41. How do Kuan-yin and the dragon solve Tripitaka’s horse problem?

42. Who is the boatman that ferries them across the river, and why does he not take any money / boat fare?

Chapters 16-17

43. Who or what is the man from Kao Farm looking for? Why?

44. Who does the monstrous creature turn out to be?

45. How does Monkey use his transformative powers to deceive him?

46. If Pigsy has done no harm as a son in law, why did Mr. Kao wish him killed?

47. How important is family honor and reputation in East Asian cultures?

Chapter 18

48. Who do Monkey, Pigsy, and Tripitaka meet at the River of Sands?

49. Why, again, do they fight their future ally? What does this say to their natures, and how they must change?

Short-Answer Question Possibilities:

50. Who is the real main character of the story, Monkey or Tripitaka? Why?

51. How does the author feel about Taoism vs. Buddhism? How can you tell?

52. How is Tripitaka’s journey to the west to retrieve the scriptures fit the definition of a pilgrimage? What is the point of a pilgrimage? Why wouldn’t the gods just give them the scriptures?