Mr. Valentine’s 10th Grade English – Unit V, Week 2 – Japanese Literature, *The Kojiki*

*Answers to the following questions may be found in the excerpts from the Kojiki posted to the website.*

1. Who are the top two deities of Japanese / Shinto mythology, male and female, that give rise to all the other gods?

2. What happens to Izanami after she gives birth to the fire god?

3. Where does Izanagi go to find her, afterward, and why can she not return?

4. What taboo or rule does Izanagi break, and what are the consequences?

5. Who are Amaterasu, Tsukuyomi (Tukuyomi), and Susano-O (Susanowo)?

6. Why does Izanagi banish Susano-O? How do Izanagi and Susano-O’s struggles with death mirror our own (i.e. the human condition)?

7. How does Susano-O cause trouble in the heavens, the realm of his sister, Amaterasu?

8. What does Amaterasu do as a result?

9. When Susano-O wishes to marry Kusinada (aka Kusi-Nada-Pime or Kushinada), what must he do first?

10. What is Orochi, and how does Susano-O slay him?

11. Where is Kusinada during all of this?

12. What does Susano-O gain from Orochi’s severed tail, and what is its significance to Japan?