Mr. Valentine’s 10th Grade English – Study Guide for Unit 1, Week 2 – *The Epic of Gilgamesh*

1. Who is the hero and warrior-king of Sumeria, and who is the man sent to challenge him?

2. How are they **foils** for one another?

3. Why does the hero wish to fight Humbaba?

4. Why does Enkidu lie about the interpretation of Gilgamesh’s dreams?

5. How does Gilgamesh almost faulter in the fight with Humbaba?

6. What does Ishtar offer Gilgamesh after the fight, how does he respond, and how does she take his answer?

7. Whose death affects Gilgamesh the most, and what quest does he undertake because of it?

8. Whom does Gilgamesh believe has the secret to eternal life, and what Biblical figure does he most resemble?

9. Along the way, Gilgamesh meets the scorpion men of the Mashu Mountains, Siduri the vintner of the beautiful garden valley, and Urshanabi, the ferryman. What do they all encourage Gilgamesh to do?

10. After meeting Utnapishtim, Gilgamesh gains a plant that will grant eternal life. What happens to the plant, and what does Gilgamesh learn from this? (Hint – It is a thing that all folks must learn / accept, eventually, as a part of the human condition).