**Mr. Valentine’s 10th Grade English – Vocabulary List for Unit 1, Week 1**

**1. Archetype** – (Noun) – A character type commonly found throughout literature and culture.

**2. Austere** – (Adjective) – Restrained; spare; very plain.

**3. Contortion** – (Noun) – Twisted shape or motion.

**4. Decreed** – (Verb) – ordered; commanded.

5. **Epic** – (Noun) - a long, narrative poem about the exploits of a national hero.

6. **Epic Hero** – (Noun) – a character that embodies the values of a given society and often saves the people from some sort of danger (the protagonist / main character of an epic).

**7. Foil** – (Noun) – A character who helps define another character by means of contrast. A character set side by side with another so that their extreme differences stand out all the more.

**8. Folklore** – (Noun) – the traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth. Includes not just the stories of mythology, but also other stories, proverbs, ballads, jokes, songs, dances, superstitions, tall tales, etc.

**9. Mythology** – (Noun) – stories once believed by a particular group, primarily concerning deities and the origin of the world. They are sometimes considered sacred.

**10. Squall** – (Noun) – a violent storm that doesn’t last very long.

**Practice Problems**

1. The circus performers stretched themselves into impressive / disturbing shapes and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. The people told the tale of Joe-Bob the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , who was strong, brave, and saved their lives from vicious dragons, long ago.

3. Stories about Zeus, Osiris, or Odin are typically considered works of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. The strong wind and rain from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ made me worry that I would not able to grill for dinner; fortunately, the weather cleared up before the afternoon.

5. Joe-Bob was a bit loud, but you didn’t always notice until you saw him hanging out with Gilbert, a very quiet individual; they were eachother’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. The king \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that all cheesemakers must pay him 1/10th of the cheese they make each year as a royal tithe or tax.

7. Epic heroes, wise old men, tricksters, monsters, and nemeses are all commonly found characters, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

8. When I got inside, I noticed that they had not sprung for an expensive hotel room, to say the least. Aside from a bed and a bathroom, the room was rather empty, plain, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

9. The books about heroes like Gilgamesh, Odysseus, and Beowulf are considered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10. I picked up a book of Irish \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ -- it contained songs, poems, and descriptions of creatures like fairies, banshees, pookahs, selkies, and dullahans.