


*The Epic of Gilgamesh*  
**Reading Guide**

**The Death of Enkidu**

1. Where did Enkidu grow up? \_\_\_\_\_ Who raised him? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is Gilgamesh?  
Gilgamesh is. . . .
3. What is happening with Enkidu (p.24-25)?  
At the beginning of the story, Enkidu is. . .
4. Describe what Enkidu sees in the dream (where is he? What is he doing?) \_\_\_\_
5. What did Gilgamesh do when he heard the dream?  
After hearing about Enkidu's dream, Gilgamesh. . .
6. How many days does Enkidu live in sickness? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What does Enkidu say about dying in shame? \_\_\_\_\_

**After you read “The Death of Enkidu,” answer the following questions.**

Stage of the Hero's Journey	Story Component
<b>Ordinary World</b> The hero's normal world before the story begins	

### Call to Adventure

The hero is presented with a problem, challenge, or adventure to undertake



### The Search for Everlasting Life

8. Why does Gilgamesh say he is going on a quest to find Utnapishtim?

Gilgamesh goes on a quest to find Utnapishtim for. . .

9. Who alone has been given everlasting life?

10. What did Gilgamesh do when he came to the mountain passes? \_

11. Describe who Gilgamesh met at the gates of Mashu. \_

12. Why do you think the Man-Scorpion allows Gilgamesh to travel even though he discourages it?

The Man-Scorpion allows Gilgamesh to pass because. . .

13. Describe what Gilgamesh sees when he comes out on the other side of Mashu.

14. What does Shamash say specifically to Gilgamesh when he sees him?

Shamash says. . .

15. What other meaning could sleep hold when Gilgamesh asks a question of Shamash? \_\_\_\_\_





16. Who does Gilgamesh find to take him to Dilmun? \_\_\_\_\_

17. How does Gilgamesh force him to do what he wants? \_

18. What did Gilgamesh expect to see in Utnapishtim?

Gilgamesh expects to see Utnapishtim as. . .



After you finish reading the section “The Search for Everlasting Life,” answer the following questions.

Stage of the Hero's Journey	Story Component
<b>Meeting with the Mentor</b> The hero meets a mentor to gain confidence, advice or training to face the adventure	
<b>Crossing the First Threshold</b> The hero crosses the gateway that separates the ordinary world from the special world	
<b>Tests, Allies, Enemies</b> The hero faces tests, meets allies, confronts enemies, and learns the rules of the special world	
<b>Approach</b> The hero hits setbacks during his journey and may need to reconsider his approach in order to get what he's after; stakes are higher.	


## The Story of the Flood

20. In what city is Utnapishtim's story based? \_\_\_\_\_
21. Why did Enlil decide that the humans needed to be exterminated? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Who warned Utnapishtim of the gods' plans? \_\_\_\_\_ How did he warn him? \_\_\_\_\_
23. What was Utnapishtim told to do? \_\_\_\_\_
24. What other story (ies) does this one sound similar to? \_\_\_\_\_
25. What did Utnapishtim load into the boat? \_\_\_\_\_
26. What did the gods do during the flood time? \_\_\_\_\_
27. How long did the storm last? \_\_\_\_\_
28. What did Utnapishtim do when he got off of the boat? \_\_\_\_\_
29. What gift did Enlil give Utnapishtim and his wife? \_\_\_\_\_

**After you finish reading the section "The Story of the Flood," answer the following questions.**

Stage of the Hero's Journey	Story Component
<b>Call to Adventure</b> The hero is presented with a problem, challenge, or adventure to undertake	
<b>Ordeal</b> The biggest life or death crisis--the hero faces his greatest fear and only through "death" can the hero	







<p>be “reborn,” experiencing even greater powers to see the journey to the end.</p>	
<p><b>Return with the Elixir</b>  The hero returns from the journey with the “elixir,” so everyone in the world can use to heal physical or emotional wounds.</p>	

## The Return

30. What test does Utnapishtim tell Gilgamesh to take to gain eternal life?
31. What did Utnapishtim’s wife do to keep track of the days Gilgamesh slept?
32. When he awakens, what is Gilgamesh told to do?
33. What is Gilgamesh’s last hope of gaining eternal life?
34. What happens to the plant?
35. What does Gilgamesh learn from this journey in the end?
36. What is he known for by the end of the story?

After you finish reading the section “The Return,” answer the following questions.

Stage of the Hero's Journey	Story Component
<b>Ordeal</b> The biggest life or death crisis the hero has faced so far--the hero faces his deepest fear, and only through “death” can the hero be “reborn.”	
<b>Reward</b> The hero has survived death, overcome his greatest fear, and now earns the reward he was after.	
<b>The Road Back</b> The hero must recommit to completing the journey. The dramatic question is asked again.	
<b>Resurrection</b> Hero faces the most dangerous meeting with death--this shows that the hero can apply everything he's learned back to the ordinary world.	

**Return with the Elixir**

The hero returns to the ordinary world with the “elixir,” so everyone can use it to heal physical or emotional wounds.

