

Gilgamesh Part II-A (27-42) Questions and Vocabulary

Name: _____

1. Describe Humbaba. As usual, justify your answer with quotes.
2. How do the old men in the marketplace react when Gilgamesh announces that he and Enkidu will fight Humbaba? Why do the old men react this way? And again, use quotes to support your answer.
3. What does Ninsun's prayer to Shamash reveal about the Sumerian's relationship with their gods?
4. Describe the dreams Gilgamesh has the night before they meet Humbaba. What does Enkidu think that the dreams mean? Use concrete examples to support your answer.
5. The monsters that a culture invents often reveal a lot about that culture. For example, when one reads in the text that "I have learned that Humbaba is the face of death," one might infer that Humbaba represents the fear of dying. What else does Humbaba represent? Please read all of the Humbaba scenes before you answer.
6. After Gilgamesh and Enkidu kill Humbaba, the men react in different ways. Describe the reaction of each. Why do they have such different reactions?
7. Vocabulary. Define in your own words. Explain the importance of the word to the story.
 - a) sway
 - b) abhor
 - c) revitalized