**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Epic of Gilgamesh Reading Questions –Sumerian Mythology (35 points)**

**Questions: Answer using complete sentences and specific details.**

**Chapter 1 (Pg. 174-177):**

1. Based on the prologue, what can readers expect Gilgamesh to discover throughout the epic?
2. How would you describe the political organization of Uruk?

2. What kind of king is Gilgamesh? What does the description of “two-thirds god” reveal about Gilgamesh?

1. What fate is Gilgamesh destined to share with all human beings? How does he feel about his fate?
2. Why and how is Enkidu created? How does he differ from Gilgamesh?
3. What does Enkidu learn from the priestess? How do the animals treat the newly transformed Enkidu?

**Chapter 2 (Pg. 177-180):**

1. How does Enkidu imagine he will win Gilgamesh's respect?
2. What steps does Enkidu take to become “civilized”?
3. Which gods are in favor of Gilgamesh?
4. How does Gilgamesh know Enkidu will arrive in Uruk?
5. How does the battle between Gilgamesh and Enkidu end?

**Chapter 3 (Pg. 180-184):**

1. Why do Enkidu and Gilgamesh go to the Cedar Forest of Lebanon?
2. Name and describe the being that rules over the forest. Why does Gilgamesh want to fight this monster?
3. To what deity does Gilgamesh make an offering? What does this deity agree to do? Why does he/she agree to do it?

**Chapter 4 (Pg. 184-187):**

34. How does Shamash aid Gilgamesh and Enkidu?

1. How are the roles of Gilgamesh and Enkidu reversed in this chapter?
2. Explain whether or not you agree with the killing of Humbaba. Give reasons to support your opinion.

**Chapter 5 (Pg. 187-191):**

1. Why doesn’t Gilgamesh want to marry Ishtar?
2. What does the goddess want sent down to Uruk to punish Gilgamesh? Who thrusts a sword into this creature?
3. How does Enkidu insult the goddess? What is Enkidu’s punishment?
4. Going beyond the fact that Enkidu and Gilgamesh are friends, why is Gilgamesh so affected by what happens to Enkidu?



**Chapter 6 (Pg. 191-196):**

1. Why does Gilgamesh search for Utanapishtim?
2. What timeless advice does Siduri give to Gilgamesh?
3. Why is Gilgamesh supposed to see Urshanabi? How does Gilgamesh anger Urshanabi?
4. According to Utanapishtim, what is permanent in life?
5. Who, according to Utanapishtim, decrees the fate of each human being? What should Gilgamesh learn from this message?

**Chapter 7 (Pg. 196-200):**

1. According to Utanapishtim, why does the great flood take place?
2. Which god did not support the idea of the flood?
3. What was Utanapishtim told to build?
4. On what mountain did the ship come to rest?
5. Who made Utanapishtim and his wife immortal? Why were they made immortal?

**Chapter 8 (200-203):**

1. What gifts have been given to Gilgamesh by the gods, according to Utanapishtim?
2. What gift does Utanapishtim direct Gilgamesh to gather? What happens to the gift?
3. What does Gilgamesh realize when he returns to Uruk?
4. Did Gilgamesh change at all in the course of this epic? If so, how?
5. What kind of hero is Gilgamesh? How does he compare to other heroes, such as Achilles, Odysseus, and Aeneas?
6. What roles do women play in the epic? What do their representations suggest about the significance of women in this ancient culture?