**World Myths and Folktales**

30 points multiple choice & 1 essay (10 points)= 40 points total

Required Literary Terms

* Myth—an anonymous, traditional story that explains a belief, custom, or a natural phenomenon; religious in nature
* Folktale—a story created by the “folk” and passed along orally from generation to generation; secular or non-religious
* Origin myth—stories that explain how things came to be; “ex nihilo”—out of nothing
* Pantheon—family groups of God/Goddesses
* Archetype—a pattern or model that serves as the basis for different, but related, versions of a character, plot or theme
* Theme—main idea of a text; moral lesson of a myth or folktale
* Motif—recurring symbol within a text
* Trickster—archetypal character common to many myths; purposely deceitful character—either for noble or ignoble purposes
* Quest-- literature based on a journey, a road of trials in which a hero hears a call and leaves his home—alone or in the company of others—to search out a treasure. Along the way he undergoes trials, receives aid, fights enemies and may even die, and, if he succeeds in attaining the treasure sought, may change who and what he is.
* Characterization—direct or indirect building of a character; round, flat, static, dynamic
* Point of view—the perspective from which a story is told
* Conflict—internal/external struggle faced by the protagonist
* Moral—the ethical or spiritual dilemma faced by the protagonist which reveals a greater truth or understanding about humanity

Readings/ Assignments

* World Myths and Folktales Literature Background pp. 1-7 (notes)
* Tales about the Beginnings pp 8-9 (notes)
* “How the World was Made” pp 10-15
* “Coyote and the Origin of Death” pp 22-24
* The Hero and the Quest pp. 26-27 (notes)
* “Theseus” pp. 28-32
* “Osiris and Isis” pp. 34-38
* The Epic of Gilgamesh 138-151
* “Green Willow: A Japanese Folktale” pg. 41
* Grimm’s “White Snake” pg. 47

Additionally, there will be **ONE** unfamiliar text on the test. It will assess your ability to read, interpret a text, and apply the skills we have acquired during our unit of study.