***The Epic of Gilgamesh***, Final Test Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Due Friday, Oct. 18 Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Choose two of the following essay topics to address. Use TBE, correctly cited.

1. Discuss the similarities between Utnapishtim’s flood story and the Biblical account of Noah and the flood. What is the symbolism of the flood? Why do you think one man is saved in each story? What is another account of the flood? TBE

2. Humbaba is not ready for battle when Gilgamesh and Enkidu arrive. As defender of the forest, it seems that the guardian should be ready to meet enemies at all times. Discuss the reasons Humbaba may not be ready for battle. Discuss the implications of a demon guardian who must wear special armor in order to be invincible. Does the timing of Gilgamesh’s arrival indicate a favorable outcome? TBE

3. Gilgamesh has been on a great journey since he first met Enkidu. Enkidu is Gilgamesh’s equal and the two have great adventures. However, Enkidu also represents the qualities that Gilgamesh lacks. Discuss Gilgamesh’s journey to discover his own weaknesses and how he does or does not learn to accept them. TBE

4. Gilgamesh talks about the fleetness of man’s life. Enkidu laments that he is dying a disgraceful death instead of on the battlefield. The importance of a man’s deeds, how he dies, and the way he is remembered are significant themes in the Epic and other heroic tales. Discuss this theme in relation to Gilgamesh. How do his rash deeds lead to a heroic life and deeds remembered? How so Gilgamesh’s actions affect Enkidu’s life so that he (Enkidu) must die a disgraceful death? Does on man have to sacrifice others in order to gain notoriety for himself?

5. Why is it ironic that Gilgamesh is unable to stay awake for a week in order to gain immortality? What does it mean for Gilgamesh that he will not be able to avoid death? Has Gilgamesh’s journey been fruitless? What has Gilgamesh learned? TBE