

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Epic of Gilgamesh: An Ancient Tale of Heroism

### Short Answer Key

1. At the beginning of the epic, Gilgamesh is described as a powerful and arrogant king. Throughout the story, he undergoes significant character development, becoming wiser and more humble after experiencing loss and embarking on a quest for immortality.
2. Enkidu's death is a pivotal moment in the epic, leading Gilgamesh to confront the reality of mortality and the limitations of human power. It serves as a catalyst for Gilgamesh's transformation.
3. Utnapishtim is a character who survived a great flood and was granted immortality by the gods. He plays a crucial role in Gilgamesh's quest for immortality by sharing his own experiences and wisdom.
4. The epic explores the theme of mortality by depicting characters' struggles with the concept of death and their desire for immortality. Ultimately, it emphasizes the acceptance of death as an inevitable part of the human condition.
5. The Epic of Gilgamesh reflects the values and beliefs of ancient Mesopotamian culture, including the importance of friendship, the role of gods and goddesses, and the acknowledgment of the human experience, including mortality.

