Teacher's notes and answer key

Gilgamesh – the King Who Searched for Immortality

Subjects: English · History · Ethics | recommended from age 14 (B1) | Video: 8:41 min

Answers B

1. King of the Sumerian city of Uruk; two-thirds god, one-third human – and still mortal.
2. He ruled as a tyrant and his people begged the gods for help; Enkidu was meant to balance him.
3. The death of his friend Enkidu – it makes him afraid of his own death.
4. To stay awake for six days and seven nights. He falls asleep almost at once.
5. A snake eats it while he is washing and sheds its skin, young again. The myth uses this to explain why snakes shed their skin.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

D1: Open discussion. The video reads the ending as a turning point: in the city walls he built, Gilgamesh finds another kind of immortality – his work and legacy.

E: Gilgamesh – an assembly of gods decides; one god secretly warns Utnapishtim; his family, craftsmen and animals of every kind are saved; reward: immortality. Bible – God decides; Noah is warned and builds the ark; his family and animals in pairs are saved; afterwards God's covenant (rainbow). The flood tablet (Tablet XI) was deciphered by George Smith in 1872 and is centuries older than the biblical texts.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 14. The video briefly mentions that the king supposedly claimed a right to every new bride, and the decay of Enkidu's body. Please preview the video.

Source of the retelling: Epic of Gilgamesh (Standard Babylonian version, Tablets I–XI).

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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