

GILGAMESH & LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE EXAM

MANDATORY QUESTION - Answer the following question for 20 points. Explain your response as completely as possible. Be sure to develop your answer with supporting details and examples from the readings.

Examine and evaluate the validity of Campbell's three phases of the journey in *Like Water for Chocolate* and *Gilgamesh*: departure, fulfillment & return. Are all three parts necessary to complete the hero's journey? Explain.

CHOOSE TWO GILGAMESH QUESTIONS – Answer any two of the following questions. Explain each answer as completely as possible. Be sure to develop each response with as many details as you can use for support. (20 points each)

- 1.** How are Enkidu and Gilgamesh characterized at the beginning of the story? How is Enkidu changed? How does he, in turn, affect Gilgamesh? What does this change for both characters symbolize?
- 2.** Even though the relationship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu is central to the text, there are a number of female characters. These include Shamhat (the "prostitute"), Rimat-Ninsun (Gilgamesh's mother), Ishtar (Queen of Heaven, goddess of love and war), Siduri (the tavern keeper), and Utnapishtim's wife. How are these women portrayed? What notions about the "nature" of women are embodied in the text?
- 3.** Washing, purifying, and changes of clothes often play important roles in rites of passage. Where do these activities occur in the *Gilgamesh*? What significance do you think they have?

CHOOSE TWO LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE QUESTIONS – Answer any two of the following questions. Explain each answer as completely as possible. Be sure to develop each response with as many details as you can use for support. (20 points each)

- 4.** Discuss the magical properties of food and cooking in this book. In what way is food a central metaphor in the novel—what does it represent?
- 5.** Discuss the images of heat and fire (as a symbol of desire) found throughout the novel. How does heat affect different characters? Are heat and fire sources of strength, or destruction?
- 6.** Compare the two male figures—Pedro and John Brown. What is each of the men's relationship with Tita? Why does she make the choice she does?

BONUS QUESTION - Answer the following bonus question for 5 additional points. Explain your response as completely as possible. Be sure to develop your answer with supporting details and examples from the play.

What do both *Gilgamesh* and *Like Water for Chocolate* portray about the nature of men and women? What does this suggest about the nature of men and women today?