**World Literature—Unit 11 Notes**

**Epic of Gilgamesh**

* Thoughts about the study of world literature on p. 281-282
* The age of Gilgamesh’s epic
* What do we know about who Gilgamesh was?
* Who is the Noah figure?
* Isn’t it interesting that one of the oldest stories we have outside of the Bible involves the theme of searching for eternal life? The problem of dying is one of the most basic dilemmas people face. It seems that there is something in the heart of man that can’t quite get used to the idea—what do you think this might indicate?
* Where does Gilgamesh go on his journey? Who does he talk to?
* What do you think of the picture of heaven in this story? Of the way that he is able to negotiate and argue with the gods?
* What symbolized eternal life in the story? Notice how it was sweet and yet involved pain for the person who picked it…what does this remind you of?
* What robbed Gilgamesh’s chance at eternal life? What does this remind you of?
* What was Gilgamesh’s fate?

**God Speaks to Job**

* Reading the Bible vs. reading another piece of literature…do you find yourself going into snooze mode when you are reading the Bible? Is it because it is familiar to us? Why is this?
* In Job 31, Job goes back over his life point by point and finds himself free from fault. He seems to conclude that he is being treated unjustly and wishes he could have a judicial hearing before God (maybe even sue God).
* What is God’s answer to Job? Does he give him a reason for all of his misfortunes? Does he say that he is punishing Job? Make of list of things on the board that God questioned Job about
* What was God’s point in asking all of these questions?
* What is Job’s response? How does this vision of God’s inscrutable greatness help to satisfy Job?

**Two Ancient Indian Fables**

* Terms: yogi, Brahmin, Mohammedan, mayna
* What are the morals of these two stories?