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**Global Literature I**

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**Summary:**

**Books 1-5**

The epic of Gilgamesh is a Babylonian epic poem that tells the story of the legendary king Gilgamesh. In books 1 to 5:

In Book 1 the poem introduces Gilgamesh as a powerful king who is two-thirds divine and one-third human and is known for his oppressive rule over the city of Uruk.

In Book 2 the people of Uruk complain to the Gods about Gilgamesh's harsh rule, leading the Gods to create Enkidu, a wild man, to challenge him.

In Book 3 Enkidu and Gilgamesh engage in a fierce battle, but eventually become friends and embark on a journey to the Cedar Forest to slay the monster Humbaba.

In Book 4 after defeating Humbaba and receiving praise from the Gods, Gilgamesh and Enkidu travel to the underworld where they encounter the goddess Ishtar, who offers to marry Gilgamesh.

In Book 5 Gilgamesh rejects Ishtar's advances, angering her and causing her to see revenge by killing Enkidu. The death of his friend deeply affects Gilgamesh and causes him to set out on a quest to find eternal life and avoid death.

These books establish the main themes of mortality, power, friendship, and the relationship between humans and the Gods, which continue to play put throughout the rest of the epic.

