

Ayomide Adeyekun
Week 1 Assignment
Gilgamesh Summary

This Story is civilization's oldest literary work. A portion of Gilgamesh recounts a flood narrative identical to the one reported in Genesis the first book of the bible. Gilgamesh is first of a friendship then a tragic loss. And finally a quest for immortality that was unsuccessful. When that story begins Gilgamesh is the King of Uruk, seen as divine but he is mortal. The gods create Enkidu who is in some way Gilgamesh's alter ego. They both don't get along at first but then after some time they reconcile and become friends they are very close. Some may even call it a bromance. Gilgamesh decides he wants to kill the monster Humbaba, but Enkidu doesn't think that is a smart idea. Gilgamesh wants to do this action to prove to everyone else how strong and brave he is. But he is not thinking about the safety of the people. Gilgamesh is asked why he is doing this and is he not afraid of the consequence of his actions. He does make a point that everyone dies, it is inevitable and that people should accept that fact. Yes what he said is true but Humbaba was not causing the people any harm, the gods made this monster to protect the forest from the people. He would only attack when provoked. The gods just wanted to protect nature. Gilgamesh still proceeds with trying to kill Humbaba and they succeed but they are cursed, which leads to the death of Enkidu. Of course since this was Gilgamesh's closest friend he was inconsolable. But Gilgamesh didn't want to have to go through the same fate. He does find a way to get immortality but he loses this way because of the serpent. This aspect is just like the story of the serpent interrupting the plan that God had for Adam and Eve. The Author did a great job of deconstructing the

narrative and putting this book into context for contemporary readers who wouldn't understand the arcane references of the ancient Mesopotamian.