

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Escape the Labyrinth of Ancient Epics: A 9th Grade Global Odyssey

Ninth graders identify recurring archetypes and foundational plot elements across Mesopotamian, Greek, and Sanskrit narratives to unlock the secrets of shared human history.

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**1. In the Mesopotamian 'Epic of Gilgamesh,' what is the primary motivation for the protagonist's long and dangerous journey?**

- A. To find the secret of eternal life after his friend's death
- B. To conquer the neighboring city of Uruk
- C. To recover a stolen golden fleece from a dragon
- D. To rescue his wife from the underworld

**2. The ancient Greek epic 'The Odyssey' focuses on the ten-year journey of \_\_\_\_\_ as he tries to return home to Ithaca.**

- A. Achilles
- B. Odysseus
- C. Agamemnon
- D. Hercules

**3. True or False: The 'Ramayana,' a major epic from India, tells the story of Prince Rama's quest to rescue his wife, Sita.**

- A. True
- B. False

**4. Which of these literary devices is most commonly used in ancient epics to help the storyteller remember the long poem?**

- A. Stream of consciousness
- B. Epithets (descriptive phrases like 'swift-footed')
- C. Footnotes and citations
- D. Free verse poetry structure

**5. In the French epic 'The Song of Roland,' the hero Roland serves as a brave knight for King \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Charlemagne
- B. Arthur
- C. Richard the Lionheart
- D. Louis XIV

**6. True or False: Ancient epics were originally written down immediately by the authors who invented them.**

- A. True
- B. False

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**7. What is the name of the monster defeated by the hero in the Old English epic 'Beowulf'?**

- A. The Minotaur
- B. Grendel
- C. Medusa
- D. The Hydra

**8. The 'Shahnameh,' or Book of Kings, is the national epic of which modern-day country?**

- A. Greece
- B. Egypt
- C. Iran
- D. China

**9. True or False: An 'epic hero' is typically a person of ordinary birth who accomplishes small, everyday tasks.**

- A. True
- B. False

**10. Which of these is a common 'universal theme' found in many different world epics?**

- A. The internal conflict of a modern office worker
- B. The battle between good and evil
- C. Technological advancements in the 21st century
- D. The history of social media