

Assessment:

Section A: Twenty questions about the stories below. Section B: Creative Writing responding to an image

Texts:

Epic of Gilgamesh

- Gilgamesh (two-thirds God, one-third human) fights Demi-God Humbaba
- Some similar stories to the Bible (e.g. flood narrative)

The Iliad (Homer)

- Helen of Troy – born from an egg, considered the most beautiful woman in the world
- She was taken from her first husband (Menelaus) by Paris of Troy – this led to the Trojan War

Metamorphoses (Ovid)

- Diana – the goddess of the moon, chastity
- When Actaeon the hunter saw her bathing, she transformed him into a deer; he was killed by his own dogs
- Phaeton – son of Phoebus, the sun-god
- Asked his father to let him drive the sun-chariot; lost control and was killed by Zeus to stop him doing more damage

The Old Testament

- Adam and Eve – first human beings, live in innocence in Garden of Eden
- Eve, tempted by a snake, defies God’s instruction not to eat fruit; cast out of garden, experience shame for first time
- Cain and Abel – Adam and Eve’s sons
- Cain was jealous of Abel, so he killed him

The New Testament

- Parable of the Prodigal Son – a man’s son takes his inheritance and leaves
- When he returns with no money, the man welcomes him: message of forgiveness and redemption
- Temptation of Christ – Jesus spends 40 days and nights in the desert

- The Devil tempts him three times; Jesus resists, setting an example
- Crucifixion of Christ – Pilate offers the crowd the chance to save Jesus; washes his hands when they don’t
- Jesus is resurrected and appears to low-status women before ascending to heaven

Tales of Reynard the Fox

- Reynard is a cunning fox who exposes hypocrisy (e.g. of King Lion)
- Outsmarts other creatures, including Bruin the Bear and Tybert the Cat

One Thousand and One Nights

- Collection of different folk tales, with same frame narrative (Scheherazade)
- Ali Baba discovers an enchanted cave belonging to thieves (password: ‘Open Sesame’); his brother tries to steal their gold and is killed
- The forty thieves try to get into his house to kill him by hiding in oil barrels; Marjaneh (his servant) pours boiling oil over them to kill them
- Ali Baba keeps the gold and marries Marjaneh

Tales and Stories of the Past with Morals (Perrault)

- Collection of folk tales; France 18th C
- In Little Red Riding Hood the title character is eaten at the end (moral – young women should be careful)

Children’s and Household Tales (Grimm)

- Collection of folk tales; Germany 19th C
- Little Snow White is 7; the queen wants her dead, and asks for her liver and lungs to eat; she is poisoned, thought dead; the dwarfs place her in a glass coffin; the passing prince sees her in the coffin and tries to carry her home; she wakes up; (moral: young women should be careful)

Skills needed for the unit:

- ✓ Read a range of challenging texts
- ✓ Retain key information

- ✓ Apply knowledge to creative tasks
- ✓ Spot references in other texts

Key vocabulary

- Parable – a story with a moral or message
- Allusion – a reference to another text
- Frame narration – a ‘story within a story’; a main narrative is the introduction to several shorter narratives
- Fable – a story with a moral or message
- Allegory – a story with a hidden or deeper meaning, often social or political
- Symbolism – where objects, characters or other aspects of a text represent something else