

Y7 ROOTS OF WESTERN LITERATURE: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Key vocabulary

- **Epic** - a long poem, typically passed through generations by word of mouth. It tells a story of the adventures of a hero or legendary figure.
- **Myth**-an ancient story or set of stories, especially explaining the early history of a group of people
- **Parable** – a simple story that teaches a moral lesson (such as in the Bible)
- **Fable** – a short story, typically with animals as characters, that teaches a moral lesson.
- **Old Testament**- The first division or half of the Christian bible containing the story of Creation
- **New Testament**- The second division or half of the bible that contains the primary teachings of Jesus.

Key Skills

- **Read** a range of challenging texts
- **Retain** key information
- **Apply knowledge** to creative tasks
- **Spot references** in other texts

Sentence starters

- [The writer] suggests that is.....
- The phrase “.....” tells the reader that.....
- This implies/suggests/explores the idea that.....
- The word/phrase/image “.....” shows/implies/suggests
- During this time in history
- [The writer] may have wanted to show that.....

Essential information on texts

Epic of Gilgamesh

- Oldest surviving story- over 4,000 years old
- Gilgamesh (two-thirds God, one-third human) fights Demi-God Humbaba in the Cedar Forest
- “When the gods created Gilgamesh they gave him a perfect body.”-Gilgamesh
- “...his breath is death.” -Humbaba

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 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
 - Treated as an object and a possession

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

Metamorphoses (Ovid)

- Diana – the goddess of the moon, chastity
- When Actaeon the hunter saw her bathing, she transformed him into a stag; 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 Jupiter to stop him doing more damage

Essential information

<p>One Thousand and One Nights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of different folk tales, with same frame narrative (Scheherazade saves her life) • 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 <p>Ali Baba keeps the gold and marries Marjaneh</p>	<p>Tales and Stories of the Past with Morals (Perrault)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
<p>Tales of Reynard the Fox</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reynard is a cunning fox who exposes hypocrisy (e.g. of King Lion) • Outsmarts other creatures, including Bruin the Bear and Tybert the Cat 	<p>Children's and Household Tales (Grimm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of folk tales; Germany 19th C <p>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)</p>

Section B: Write a detailed description as suggested by an image.

You will be given a picture. It could be of any sort of landscape, for example, mountains, forest, beach, etc. You need to pick out interesting parts of the picture and for each paragraph zoom in on a particular part of the picture to describe.

How to revise for this part of the assessment:

- Find a picture of a landscape on the internet/ in a magazine or book
- Plan which bits of the picture are most interesting and you would use to write about
- Practise writing based on your chosen picture

In your description you should try to:

- Use interesting and ambitious words
- Build a detailed description
- Use the senses to build a multisensory description
- Use descriptive techniques such as simile, metaphor and/or personification

Don't forget to check your spelling, punctuation and grammar. You should:

- Write in clear sentences
- Punctuate all pauses appropriately
- Use capital letters appropriately
- Vary sentence starters/lengths.