

The norton anthology of world literature

Literature



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The Norton Anthology of World Literature

1. Name at least three ways in which the flood narratives in Genesis and Gilgamesh differ?

Genesis and Gilgamesh describe the flood at a global extent and there are somehow different in terms of the narrative description of the floods.

Genesis describes that the flood was there on earth because of the ground water and heavy rain. On the other hand, Gilgamesh illustrates that flood was there on earth because of heavy rain only. According to Genesis, the duration of flood was forty days and nights while Gilgamesh informs that the flood lasted six days and nights. According to Genesis, the shape of the boat that was built for rescue during flood was rectangular in shape while Gilgamesh informed the boat to be of square shape.

2. Explain how Hector fits the classification of a classic hero?

Hector fits the classification of a classic hero as he is portrayed with all the qualities that must be present in classic heroes. A classic hero is strong, praise worthy, honorable, godlike man, who is not deprived of human follies. Hector is depicted with praising adjectives such as noble, resplendent, bright-helmeted and many others. Hector is brave and honorable. Hector is a soldier and fights fearlessly against the enemies due to which, the word, man-killing is used with him. People listen to him with all the due respect. Hector's fault is his pride and due to this fault, he receives death at the end and his death is heroic.

3. How the Iliad contains the characteristics of an epic?

Iliad contains the characteristics of an epic because it is an epic poem. Epic poetry is usually long narration of heroic struggle towards some ambition and it usually portrays the hero as the most honorable, noble and strong

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person on earth. The characters of Hector and Achilles are portrayed as strong, noble and honorable, which make an epic poem. There is usage of repetitive words in order to learn the epic by heart. Previously, the bards sang epics, so, usage of repetitive expressions and words is present in Iliad too. In addition, Iliad describes the heroic lives of Achilles and Hector with glorifying narration. In epics, the hero has a number of battles in which, he shows his power and strength as a fearless warrior and Iliad also shows Achilles and Hector as fearless warriors. Therefore, it is quite clear that Iliad contains the characteristics of an epic.