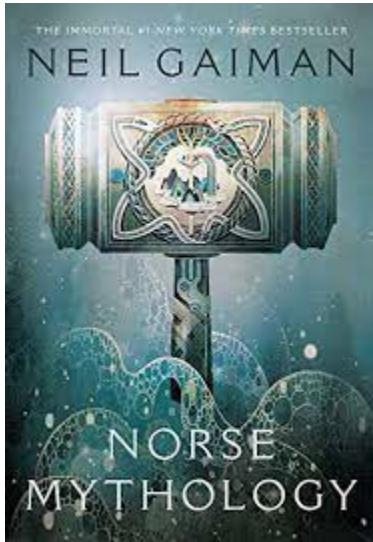


10th grade Globes World Lit

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Room 308



ISBN-13: 978-0393356182

Note about content: This novel is based on Norse mythology, which does contain violence, bloodshed, and unfairness; however, the novel is written in good taste.

Note about plagiarism & ChatGPT or other AI: You will only be using your own ideas, content that comes from you alone; therefore, there is no need for you to search anywhere online for information or help. The use of outside sources or AI is considered plagiarism. The punishment for plagiarism is very severe.

Note about MLA format: You have learned how to format in MLA style for years now. You should cite your quotations for textual evidence in the following way (Gaiman 12) if the quote you are using is on page 12. Citations are NEVER in the middle of a sentence – always at the end. See PurdueOWL online if you are unsure.

[Link to purchase Neil Gaiman's Norse Mythology](#)

[Link to PurdueOwl MLA writing center](#) – for all things format, font, spacing, in-text citations, and Works Cited.

First – Before you read the novel, read the questions below. Knowing what you will be asked will activate your brain to pay attention to the details the questions require.

Second -- Read Neil Gaiman's *Norse Mythology*. I highly recommend you annotate this novel.

Third – **Answering these questions is your written assignment for the novel. I expect all questions to be answered with specificity and detail. Do not write vaguely. Write in complete sentences in paragraph form. Use textual evidence when possible.**

1. Examine each of the primary gods: Odin, Thor, and Loki. Discuss their passions, humor, conflicts, bravery, and flaws. Which god do you find most interesting, admirable, cruel, weird, cool? Explain why. (I expect that you will write at least one long paragraph about each god)
2. Examine also Odin's wife, Freya, and his son, Balder, as well as Tyr, the one-handed god in the same way you did for the gods in question one.
3. What is the role of mythology in culture? Why have all civilizations created their stories: what do myths signify? What do the Norse myths, in particular, say about the Germanic/Norse

cultures...and their view of humankind. **(certainly use what you learn from the novel, but you may also look up info to better answer this question. Make sure you cite the source you use.)**

4. *Follow-up to Questions #3:* Does mythology, particularly Neil Gaiman's volume have relevance today? Are they universal cautionary tales? (if so, against what do they caution) Do they offer age-old wisdom? (if so, wisdom about what in particular) Or could it be a combination? Explain your answer thoroughly.

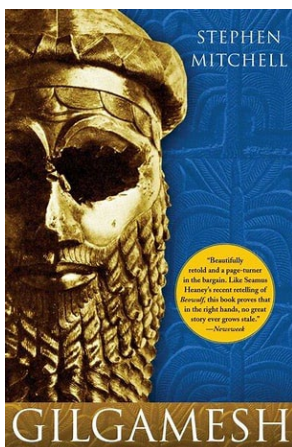
5. What other mythologies are you familiar with: perhaps Ancient Greek, African, Hindi, Native American, Sumerian? How do the Norse myths compare—are there similarities with any other group of myths with which you are familiar?

6. In Norse mythology all roads lead to Ragnarok. How did they get there? Is the cataclysmic end inevitable—is it dictated by fate or by the innate nature of the gods? (you should form an opinion and argue your side using textual evidence)

Questions by LitLovers.

You will have an exam on Neil Gaiman's *Norse Mythology* within the first 8 days of school. The written portion of the summer assignment is due the day we return to school. You do not need to print it. You will upload it to Turnitin.com on the first day of class when I provide you with the codes for Turnitin.com.

The first novel we read in class is *Gilgamesh* by Stephen Mitchell. Please procure your own hard copy of the novel. You must obtain a hard copy of the novel – no pdfs or online copies.



[Link to purchase this version of *Gilgamesh*.](#) It is crucial that students get the copy I recommend b/c many of our texts in World Lit are originally written in another language and we need the same translation.