

## Familiar

- Greek Gods
  - Characteristics
  - Powers
  - Complex/ incestuous relationships
- Modern context
  - familiar to contemporary audience
  - Response = Ancient Greece

## Different

- Modern context
- Relationship standards
  - Love
  - Parent/child authority
- Personality changes/ updates
  - Hades
    - Junk food
    - Wimpy – Lord of the Underworld???
  - Demeter
- Psychology as motivation

## Why is it funny/ entertaining?

- Mixing old and new
- Portrayal as human with modern flaws
- Empathy – equals to “man”
- Unexpected – collision of different times
- Character difference - Acting out of character
  - Playing on reader knowledge & expectations

## What still remains worthwhile?

- Modern society
  - Ordinary/extraordinary (empathy)
  - “rules” (lawyer)
  - Parenting
  - Division/ multiplicity of character
- Human nature
  - Conflict
  - Love – in all its variety
  - Exaggeration for emphasis

## Hybridization

- Old and new combined
  - Why?
  - Archetype?
- Tracing a progression
  - Social
  - Cultural
- Symbolism

## Why? (What is my motivation?)

- Gilgamesh
  - Kills “bad” things – strong and brave
  - Special birth – destiny
  - Powerful
  - Promotes Civilization & order
    - Protection of the city – physical wall
    - Dominance over nature – Enkidu tamed & trees chopped
  - Physically attractive/desirable (desired by Ishtar)
- Achilles/ Hector

## Why? (What is my motivation?)

- Beowulf
  - Strong, kills things
    - Honorable
  - Helps other people – selfless
  - Challenges himself
  - Human/ mortal and still great

## Why? (What is my motivation?)

- Arthur
  - Destiny
  - Honor & courage
  - Cares about his people
    - Willing to suffer to help others and preserve order
    - Promised to return – does not abandon
  - Promotes order, civilization
    - Laws, religion
    - Brains over brawn
    - Teamwork is better than individual heroism

## **Why? (What is my motivation?)**

- Superman
  - Invincible
  - Multi-talented
  - Physically desirable/ attractive
  - Good guy
    - Fights for right
    - Uses his powers for good
    - Inconveniences himself - selfless
    - Faithful to a single relationship
    - Doesn't always get what he wants
  - Psychological complexity
  - Self control – Justice and legality

## **How? (What is my game plan?)**

- Gilgamesh – Buddy movie
  - Motivation/ moral support
- Achilles – Buddy/solo
  - motivation/ balance
- Hector - Solo
- Beowulf - Solo
- Arthur - Posse
- Superman – Solo

**I'm not bad...I'm just written that way**

- Humbaba – He's DIFFERENT!
- Penelope's suitors (Odyssey) – Greedy & inconsiderate
- Grendel – Eating disorder
- Mordred – Incest, betrayal, greed
- Lex Luthor – greed, jealousy, vengeance, psychosis

*Fear*  
*Power*  
*Understanding*  
*Entertainment*

## Have we gone beyond myths?

- Good/evil
- Right/wrong
- A struggle or a cooperation?
  
- Modern wisdom says that good and evil are outdated. We live in a world of psychological complexity and "sickness." Are myths then outdated, behind us? Myths deal in terms of right and wrong, good triumphing over evil. Is that outdated and passé? If so, why do we keep returning to mythic stories and fantasy fare?

## Myth vs. Mythology

- Can it still be created?
- Does it still have a purpose?