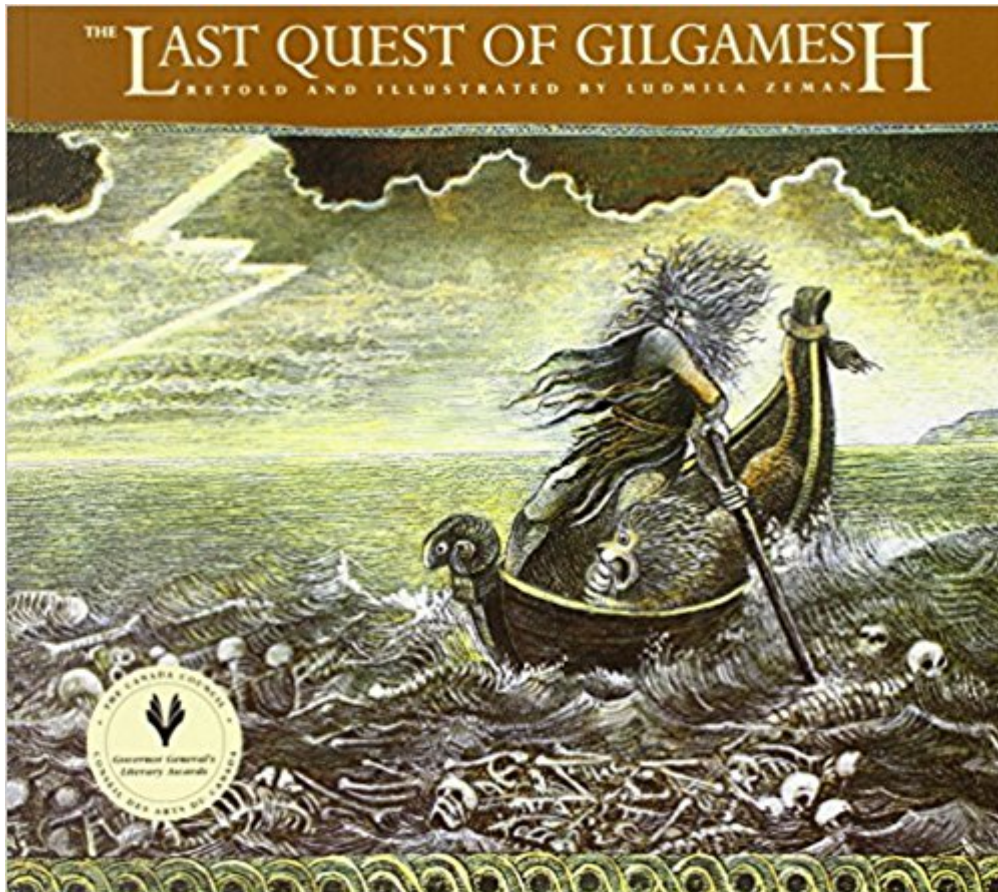




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The Last Quest Of Gilgamesh (The Gilgamesh Trilogy)



Synopsis

In his final quest, Gilgamesh, still mourning the death of his dear friend Enkidu, sets out to find the key to immortality. His journey is perilous. He must fight ferocious serpents and wild lions. He travels through bitterly cold caves, across scorching deserts, and over the fatal waters of the Sea of Death. Finally he arrives at the palace of Utnapishtim, the only human who knows the secret of immortality. Utnapishtim sets Gilgamesh a test to stay away for six days and seven nights, but Gilgamesh fails. His last hope, a flower of eternal youth, is eaten by the goddess Ishtar, who exacts her revenge. Finally, Enkidu comes from the underworld to show Gilgamesh true immortality: the king will be remembered for his good deeds, courage, and love for his people.

Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

The Gilgamesh Trilogy: "A powerful version of the Gilgamesh epic" —a stirring and sad tale. —The New Yorker

In his final quest, Gilgamesh, still mourning the death of his dear friend Enkidu, sets out to find the key to immortality. His journey is perilous. He must fight ferocious serpents and wild lions. He travels through bitterly cold caves, across scorching deserts, and over the fatal waters of the Sea of Death. Finally he arrives at the palace of Utnapishtim, the only human who knows the secret of

immortality. Utnapishtim sets Gilgamesh a test to stay away for six days and seven nights, but Gilgamesh fails. His last hope, a flower of eternal youth, is eaten by the goddess Ishtar, who exacts her revenge. Finally, Enkidu comes from the underworld to show Gilgamesh true immortality: the king will be remembered for his good deeds, courage, and love for his people.

All three of my kids liked this version of the Gilgamesh story (This review counts for all three volumes) when they were young and continued to like after they grew and read/studied the original. We found it entertaining and the moral not intrusive. It's not entirely true to the original, but placed in a version appealing to children. I give only four stars because the current version is dumbed down from that published a few years ago---in the current text, Enkidu beats Gilgamesh in the fight and saves his life, so they can become friends. In the real story, Gilgamesh (who is 2/3 immortal) beats Enkidu---and they become friends. No need to change some of life's turbulent episodes into scenes from Mr Roger's Neighborhood. The first version of this well-done set is better, but this is still good.

Bought for 5- and 7-year old boys who are studying Sumerian civilization, and enjoyed immensely by both. The writing is evocative but not too course, and the last page of each of this series has an overview of historical and thematic aspects of the story and time that were very useful for home study. We used these in concert with an online interactive archaeological excavation program out of the University of Chicago, and I think the fact that the illustrations evoked the kinds of artifacts the kids found really made concrete that this story was not just like the other fictions books my kids have, but a story that functions as a window into a long-gone time. We also really enjoyed discussing how themes in this story (such as the flood and the serpent and immortality) would come up later, both in Greek mythology and in Christian mythology. Altogether a fantastical account of an already interesting story with evocative illustrations. The only negative is that I wish something like this existed for general Sumerian mythology, as the author is adept at referring to otherwise non-child-friendly themes in ways that suggest but do not elaborate.

Great books to introduce your kids to Gilgamesh. My kids enjoyed this series (3 books total) and it was easy enough to read to them in less than 20 minutes. The epic of Gilgamesh is fairly graphic but this book does a great job of making it interesting to kids without being graphic or scary. Highly recommend this for kids age 5-10

It's a wonderful story based on a poem that was written thousands of years ago, having read the

poem of Gilgamesh I couldn't resist of getting this version for my 7 and 13 year old, drawings on the book are very colorful and help visualize the story.

Love this series. Best children's Gilgamesh books! Great seller.

Zeman's presentation in The Gilgamesh Trilogy is faithful to the Epic. The story and its illustrations hold our children's sustained interest, and stimulates much discussion. This is a fun way to learn ancient history, customs, and mythical entities. We highly recommend all three volumes.

Great story for adults and young. Basis of a lot of modern stories. Awesome depiction of the characters.

At first I wasn't big on this series. It was highly recommended, but to be honest I'm just not into the whole fantasy/ancient world stories: the monsters and bulls from heaven, the Ishtar goddess who turns into a serpent, the whole mythical thing. Sorry, I know that's really anti-educational of me to say. I think my biggest concern with this series, however, was that it would be too dark.

Mesopotamia is. I was a little afraid that the tragedy would be too weighty for the kids, and the whole color scheme, descending into hell, being smited by the gods for the purpose of revenge, etc, would just be too much for my lower elementary kids. And yet I caved into the pressure. To be honest, there's not very much in this genre of Mesopotamia for kids--at least not in literature. And my kids are too young for the other popular Epic of G resources out there. So we dove in. And I changed my mind. It is dark and tragic, but it is tastefully done and ends on a happy enough note/good moral lesson. There are some fantastical elements that I'm not sure my kids know what to do with (i.e. the souls of the dead people come back as birds and sometimes can be seen by those who are alive, and sometimes cannot)... but even my five year old really liked the whole series. You can't argue with that. They have asked for it over and over again. So I still wish the author had a more conservative view of the subject, but she is an expert who did well in replicating the story for kids. She didn't tamper with the details or ideology, which I really appreciated. And the part about Utnapishtam and the Flood controversy was handled well. I think I would have cut out the part about Shamhat and Enkidu "exploring the ways of love together" and maybe a couple other phrases, but it's hard to quibble on a larger level.

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