

**Mythology**  
**Reading Quiz M&L 15: Views of the Afterlife**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which of the following arose from the blood of Uranus' genitals? (a) the Erinyes (b) the Fates (c) new souls (d) the Gorgons
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. What does the term chthonian (or chthonic) mean? (a) it is another term for an Olympian deity (b) it refers to a deity who is of the sky (c) it refers to a divinity who is of the earth (d) it refers to one condemned to Tartarus
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In the underworld, what is the River of Forgetfulness? (a) Acheron (b) Cocytus (c) Lethe (d) Styx
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The author whose account of the afterlife represents a kind of reincarnation is (a) Democritus (b) Homer (c) Plato (d) Vergil
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The philosopher whose view of the "afterlife" involves the dispersal of the soul's atoms: (a) Aristophanes (b) Democritus (c) Plato (d) Xenophanes
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Tantalus is imprisoned in Tartarus because (a) he insulted Zeus (b) he tried to feed his son to the gods (c) he killed his own father (d) he committed sacrilege in Zeus's temples
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Ixion is punished for trying to rape Hera by (a) being bound forever on a fiery turning wheel (b) being tied to a rock with a vulture eating his liver (c) pushing a stone up a hill (d) torment by demons
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Circe sends Odysseus to the underworld so that (a) he can learn where the body of Elpenor is and bury him (b) he can see his mother and learn what has happened in Ithaca (c) he can find learn all the secrets of the underworld (d) so that he can be told how to evade dangers and get home by the prophet Tiresias
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Achilles in the underworld tells Odysseus: (a) that he should beware the fickle heart of women and return home quickly (b) that he should find his body and bury it properly (c) that he should not have killed Hector (d) that he would rather be a slave among the living than a king in Hades
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. With which of the following does Odysseus NOT interact in his journey to the underworld? (a) the warrior Ajax (b) his comrade Agamemnon (c) his father, Laertes (c) the seer Tiresias
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Which does NOT happen in Odysseus' encounter with his mother, Anticlea? (a) his mother drinks the sacrificial blood, then recognizes him (b) she tells him what is happening back in Ithaca (c) she advises him to return quickly to the upper world (d) he tries to embrace her, but three times she slips through his grasp

- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Which is NOT a (potential) barrier the soul meets on its way to the underworld: (a) the river Styx (b) the judges Minos and Rhadamanthys (c) the throne of Hades (d) the three-headed Cerberus
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The place where the souls of heroes spend eternity in peace and plenty: (a) Acheron (b) Elysium (c) Lethe (d) Tartarus
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Which of the following is NOT a feature of the sacrifice that Odysseus makes in order to be able to open the way to Hades? (a) digs a pit (b) pours libations to the dead (c) sacrifices sacrificial animals so that their blood runs into the pit (d) portions the sacrificial animals' meat to the priests who assist
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. What role does the Sibyl play in Aeneas' underworld journey? (a) she tries to discourage him from going (b) she oversees the sacrifice he makes before he sets off (c) she is the assistant of Charon (d) she is Aeneas' guide in the underworld
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Why is Palinurus not able to cross the river Styx? (a) because he has not been buried properly (b) because of crimes that would condemn him to Tartarus (c) because he does not have the payment for Charon (d) because he had committed suicide
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. What creature guards the realm of Tartarus in Vergil's underworld? (a) the Theban Sphinx (b) the dog Cerberus (c) the Lernaean Hydra (d) the fury Tisiphone
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Aeneas travels to the underworld to: (a) see Dido (b) find his way to Italy (c) offer sacrifices for the dead (d) speak with his father Anchises
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. In Plato's story of Er, Er is able to tell what happens in the afterlife because (a) he had a "near death experience" and revived after 12 days apparently dead (b) he was instructed by Tiresias (c) he relates what he had seen in a prophetic dream (d) he was able to see into the heavenly realm after making a sacrifice to Zeus
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. In the myth of Er, where do the virtuous go? (a) to Elysium (b) to the Islands of the Blessed (c) upward through an opening in the sky (d) to Olympus
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Homer's account of Odysseus' underworld journey dates from about: (a) 750-700 BCE (b) 500-450 BCE (c) 400-350 BCE (d) 25 BC-25 AD
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. Vergil's account of Aeneas' underworld journey dates from about: (a) 750-700 BCE (b) 500-450 BCE (c) 400-350 BCE (d) 25 BC-25 AD
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. Plato's account of Er's vision of the afterlife dates from about: (a) 750-700 BCE (b) 500-450 BCE (c) 400-350 BCE (d) 25 BC-25 AD