Sundiata

Lion’s Awakening

1. What is ironic about Sundiata being classified as a hero?
2. Discuss the relationship between Sogolon Kedjou and Sassouma Berete. What does this tell us about the relationship between woman? What do women seek their identity in? Is this still relevant today?
3. Discuss the role of fate in the story. How can it be related back to the Greeks?
4. What is the overall theme of the section?

*From* Krina

1. Explain the metaphorical smack talk. What social situation does the exchange of words between Sundiata and Soumaoro mirror?
2. Which details show the role that family unity plays in Sundiata’s defeat of Soumaoro?
3. What is the setting for the battle?
4. What complication is signaled but the statement “The battle is not yet won”? How is this complication resolved?
5. Explain the archetypal symbolism of the special arrow Sundiata uses to defeat Soumaoro and the bird that flies over Soumaoro.

Epic Hero

1. Which qualities of an epic hero does Sundiata possess? How does he compare to your original perception of an epic hero?