

**Study Guide
for Assigned Readings on Myth**

Puhvel (1972) *Comparative Mythology*

1. What is meant by Vedic literature? (Puhvel, ch 4)
2. What is meant by Indian Epic literature? (Puhvel, ch 4)
3. How does the Vālmīki's *Rāmāyaṇa* fit into the epic tradition?

Mallory (1989) *In Search of the Indo-Europeans*

4. According to Mallory (1989), what kind of evidence is needed to reconstruct something as *proto-Indo-European* language and culture?
5. According to Mallory (1989), Dumézil reconstructed early Indo-European culture was marked by a tripartite social organization. What are the three classes identified by this approach and what kind of evidence is used to support it? How does is this classification realized in myth?
6. According to Mallory (1989) , “Dumézil and his colleagues propose a pattern of dualism that cuts across the tripartite structure of Indo-European ideology.” What does he mean by that?

Wender (1976) *The Myth of Washington*

7. What does Wender (1976) tell us about the debate between those who saw all traditional narratives as rooted in actual historical events and those who did not?