Name: _____   **Block: _____**   **Date: _____**

The Heroic Quest

Introduction: Contests are a prominent motif in myths and fairy tales. They provide ways of working out a literary conflict by determining which character is more skillful or powerful. In the contest motif, there may be either one or three phrases or stages of competition.

VS. _____: WHO WOULD WIN?

Directions:

1. Brainstorm a list of at least 5 "tests" you would encounter on an everyday basis in your own life, or ways people may be tested in life (for example, "choosing a date to the dance," "convincing your assistant principal to not give you detention," or the loss of a job). The more "everyday" your obstacle, the funnier part 2 will be.

2. Choose one of the real-world examples from your brainstorming and, using Thor and one of the following characters*, explain who would succeed in this contest and why, using the following template: **"In a contest of (test/obstacle), where Thor would compete against (character & story title), (character) would win because …."**

   Character choices:
   - The serpent from "Genesis"
   - The "rough beast" from Yeats' "The Second Coming"
   - Cinderella OR her stepmother from the Grimm's "Cinderella"
   - Another fairy tale villain of your choosing (from the story you read with your group)
   - Shrek
   - One of the characters mentioned in the Ted-Ed Video: Harry Potter, Katniss Everdeen, or Frodo Baggins

3. EXAMPLE: Thor vs. Cinderella in "Getting Out of a Speeding Ticket"
   Cinderella from "The Little Glass Slipper" would win in a contest of getting out of a speeding ticket because she is the character least to be suspected for speeding. Her kindness and beauty would be overwhelming for the officer, and she would be given a warning. Thor, on the other hand, would be too quick to anger (as he was when he couldn't open the provision bag). Thor would end up in jail instead of with a speeding ticket!

   COMPLETE YOUR WORK ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER AND ATTACH TO THIS SHEET BEFORE TURNING IN.

Ms. Muhlbaier   **Language Arts**