Moon’s Day, September 14: Books of the Dead

**EQs:** How and what did Ancient Egyptians write?

- **Welcome!** Gather OLD WORK into your Notebook; gather paper, pen/cil, wits!
- **Freewrite:** Fear of Rot
- **Books of the Dead**
  - History and Context
  - Writing vs. Hieroglyphs
- **CLOZE/Reading Guide:** Books of the Dead

**ELACC12RI3:** Analyze and explain how individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop
**ELACC12W6:** Use technology to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing
**ELACC12W9:** Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis
**ELACC12W10:** Write routinely over extended and shorter time frames
**ELACC12SL1:** Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions
**ELACC12L4:** Determine/clarify meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases
**ELACC12L6:** Acquire and use general academic and domain-specific words and phrases

Books of the Dead – Egyptian
Here in the city man perishes
with despair in his heart....
I have looked over the wall
and I see the bodies floating on the river,
and that will be my lot also,
for whoever is tallest among men
cannot reach the heavens,
and the greatest cannot encompass the earth.
– The Epic of Gilgamesh

Freewrite 100 words: Why do we fear the body’s death?
**Moon’s Day, September 14: Book of the Dead**

**EQs: How and what did Ancient Egyptians write?**

- The literal translation of the title is “Book of Coming Forth Into The Light” – i.e., resurrection into daylight
- The verses were buried in tombs with bodies
- Variations exist among discovered versions, but all have common elements – probably because this was a formal ceremony which each family or pharaoh adapted for use
- The earliest versions were hieroglyphs on walls inside tombs, pyramids (3500 BCE)
Later versions (1500 BCE) were written on scrolls of papyrus (an early paper made from reeds) and left inside of tombs.
These papyrus versions contain true writing, not simply hieroglyphics.

- Remember our definition of writing: *system of arbitrary symbols conveying meaning*

- Simple hieroglyphs are just pictures; the papyrus contains two innovations
  
  o “cursive” hieroglyphs: unlike “simple” hieroglyphs, these were somewhat pictoral but also somewhat “arbitrary”
    - May be read left to right or right to left, depending on context
  
  o “hieratic” script is not pictoral
    - Always read right to left
    *(English is left to right)*
CLOZE and Reading Guide: *Book of the Dead*

**Part I: CLOZE – use YOUR NOTES from today’s lecture.**

1. A more *literal* translation of the title for the work commonly called “The Book of the Dead” is
   “The Book of ___________________ __________________ Into The ________________.”

2. The verses were usually found where?

3. Why are there variations (with common elements) among the versions we have found?

4. The earliest versions, existing from ______ BCE, were _____________ on ____________.

5. Later versions, from ______ BCE, were _____________ on ____________ ____________.

6. Why are these texts considered “writing,” rather than simple hieroglyphs?

**Submit Freewrite and CLOZE!**