When We Were Kings
Discussion Questions

1. Muhammad Ali arrogantly uses similes to describe his greatness as a boxer and an athlete: give an example of one.

2. Why did many say that Ali should be afraid of George Foreman?

3. How did Ali train for the fight?

4. Why is it that the African’s, almost universally, favored Ali over Foreman?

5. How does Ali react to the delay? Does the delay remind you of anything from Gilgamesh?

6. Who do you think the fight promoter, Don King, relates to in Gilgamesh? Why?
7. What does Ali Bomaye mean? What does Foreman think about the phrase?

8. What/who does Ali seem to be fighting for? In what way?

9. Why was Ali’s pride seen as a negative thing just before the fight?

10. Explain the significance of the right hand lead. Why is it so unheard of?

11. What is Ali’s purpose for using the right hand lead? What is the result?

12. Explain Ali’s abyss/revelation after the first round?
13. Why did they refer to Ali as the sleeping elephant?

14. What does Ali ultimately realize about Africans (as well as African-Americans) as a result of this journey to Zaire?

15. Why do you think Spike Lee says that Muhammad Ali is a true hero?

16. As you watch, create an ongoing list of ways Gilgamesh and Ali are alike.