

## ESSAY

Write a well-developed essay (approximately 3-5 pages) discussing the possible economic and social significance and implications of Uke Iwagu Uo's "Geriguigatugo." While you are free to determine the specific focus of your essay, you might want to consider some of the following questions and issues: Notice this story from the Bororo Indians of southern Brazil is part of a non-Western mythology which, however, offers insights very similar to those found in the Greek, Roman and Hebrew texts that we have read in class. How does this story engage specific aspects of the evolution of human economic behavior and social structure? How does it look at the steps of that evolution? How does the story interpret or represent the cause-effect relations of those processes? Where does the story place the guilt for the worsening of the human situation? Is it significant that, at the start of the story, Geriguigatugo is a young boy about to undergo initiation rites? What is the significance of Geriguigatugo's conflict with his father and the "rape" of (i.e. desire for) his mother? What alternatives do the father and the mother represent? How is this to be understood in terms of the property relations and the social forms prevailing in Geriguigatugo's society? What is the significance of his actions? What prohibitions does he seek to overcome? What is he resisting? What is he seeking? What is his father's reaction and what does he intend to do to the boy? What is the significance of the objects that he asks him to fetch, the "large rattle," the "small rattle" and the "peccary anklet"? Anything significant about the functions of the objects? What may they stand for? Where do they come from? What is the "nest of the souls"? Is it a good idea to steal from the "souls"? What about the idea of a "nest"? Who or what is Geriguigatugo being forced to steal from? How does that relate to his father's way of life? Is it revealing that the objects' size decreases as they are taken successively? What does that suggest about what Geriguigatugo is doing? What creatures help Geriguigatugo and save him from being destroyed? Why? What about the visit to the "macaws' nest"? How does that continue the characterization of the father's way of life? What does the father intend by sending Geriguigatugo up into the macaws' nest? Is it important that Geriguigatugo is saved by his grandmother's stick? Why? What distinctions does that establish? What does the grandmother represent that is the opposite of what the father represents? How does this relate to Geriguigatugo's desire for his mother? What about the things that Geriguigatugo eats? How does he obtain food? What are the effects on him of different kinds of foods? Which ones help him? Which ones harm him? Why? What does that imply? Is it important that Geriguigatugo finds healing foods by remembering his grandmother's wisdom? What is the meaning of Geriguigatugo's transformations into birds and other flying creatures? Is it significant that they decrease in size? How about the fact that his flights reunite him with his grandmother and little brother? Where do they all go? What is the meaning of the new country? What does Geriguigatugo do to his father's people? How does he punish them? Why is the story sympathetic to Geriguigatugo? What attitudes does he represent toward the patriarchal world and its modes of production and social and property relations? What path does he walk relative to the evolution of the human species? What, ultimately, does Geriguigatugo want and why is he, together with his grandmother, the hero of the story?