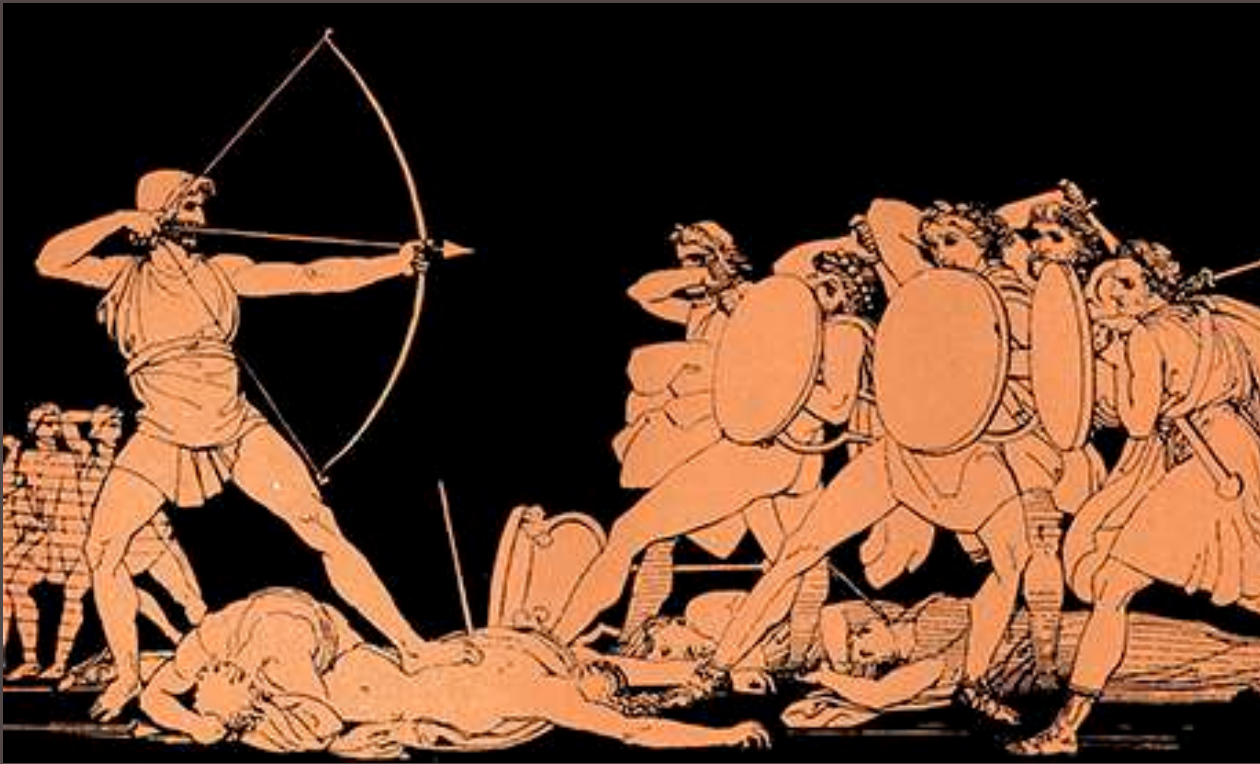


# *The Odyssey*



# *Homer*



- Many believe that Homer was a \_\_\_\_\_ Greek poet who wandered from town to town chanting his poetry to the accompaniment of a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Some say that the lyrics were not written by one person but are instead a \_\_\_\_\_ of Greek poems.

# *Homer the Poet*

- Authorities do not agree exactly when Homer lived. Dates vary anywhere from the \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.
- Where he was born is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The poetry was written down around the latter part of the \_\_\_\_\_ century B.C. (Before that it had been recited by \_\_\_\_\_.)
- Historians don't know if Homer was real or fictional. Some say he was a solo author; others say his stories were actually written by many people over many centuries.

## *Features that Make Homer's Poetry Classic are:*

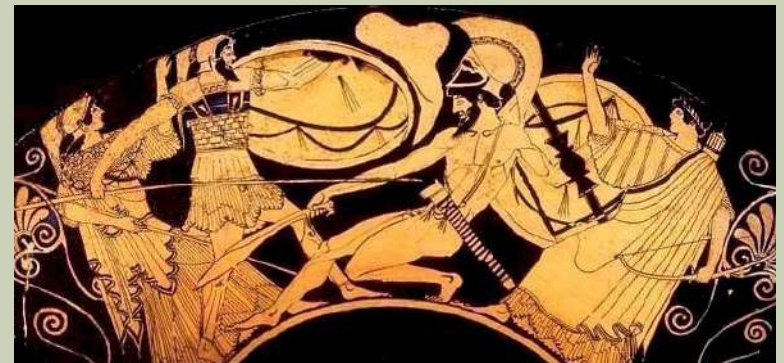
- Simplicity of \_\_\_\_\_
- Swift movement of \_\_\_\_\_
- Creation of characters with simple  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Actions that are true to human nature
- Plots that blend the joys of living with  
\_\_\_\_\_ elements of life
- Long \_\_\_\_\_ lines (in the original  
Greek version)

# *The Trojan War*

- The Trojan War (around 1200 BC) was fought after \_\_\_\_\_, the wife of King \_\_\_\_\_ of Sparta, was kidnapped by Prince \_\_\_\_\_, the son of King Priam of \_\_\_\_\_.
- After battling for \_\_\_\_\_ years, the Greek, Odysseus, conceived a clever plan to make a gift of a large wooden \_\_\_\_\_ to transport hidden soldiers into the heart of Troy.
- The plan worked, and once the horse was inside the city walls, the soldiers emerged at night and opened the gates to admit the rest of the Greek army. The Greeks killed

# *The Trojan War*

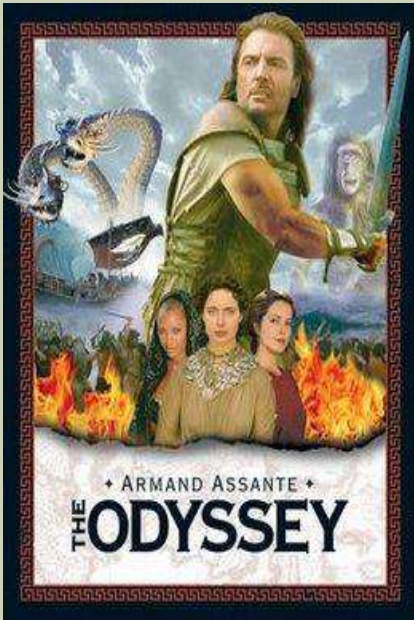
The Trojan War was considered a myth until Troy was excavated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.



# *The Actual City of Troy*

- Troy has been destroyed and rebuilt several times.
- The earliest discovery found a primitive city with stone walls, well- built houses, and hoards of precious metals. In our century, explorers have found evidence of at least nine cities, some destroyed by earthquakes, other by plundering and fire.
- Historians believe the Troy Homer wrote about was one they have dated to about \_\_\_\_\_ B.C.

# Odysseus



- Odysseus was a king of \_\_\_\_\_ in Greek mythology. He and his wife \_\_\_\_\_ had a son named \_\_\_\_\_.

When Paris kidnapped Helen of Troy, Menelaus needed Odysseus's help. Odysseus did not want to leave his family and kingdom and fight, so he pretended to be insane, but Palamedes put Telemachus in the path of a plow Odysseus was using in a field. Odysseus swerved to avoid the boy which revealed his sanity.

- After the fall of Troy, Odysseus wandered for ten years before he was able to return to Ithaca and his wife. The adventures form the plot of *The Odyssey*.

# *The Odyssey: An Epic Poem*



Epic: A long \_\_\_\_\_ (in  
verse form) about the  
adventures of a hero

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*The Odyssey* is an **epic poem**. Examples of epics include the following:  
Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy or the *Star Wars* movies created by George Lucas

## *Epics typically have the following specific elements:*

- A suffering city or nations and its people
- A love interest for the hero
- Member(s) of a royal family
- At least one deity, who \_\_\_\_\_
- At least one deity, who works against the hero
- Dangerous \_\_\_\_\_ creatures
- Great deeds such as battles (against monsters, armies, antagonists, and supernatural elements), finding magical objects, destroying magical objects, saving other characters in danger
- Oaths, curses, and \_\_\_\_\_
- Many real or imaginary locations with dangers on the way to a new place

# *Characteristics of an Epic*

- Long narrative poem
  - Can't be told at one sitting
  - Tales are \_\_\_\_\_ (revolves around several characters)
  - Spans many years
  - Tells the adventure of a hero
  - Starts in the \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- *In medias res*: beginning a story at its midpoint; flashback is used to reveal previous actions.

# *Characteristics of an Epic Hero*

- Humanity
- Strength
- Bravery
- Steadfastness
- Spirit of  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Generosity
- Loyalty
- Listen  
to \_\_\_\_\_  
—
- Manners
- Pride

# *Social Values of the Epic Hero*

- Family
- Respect for the \_\_\_\_\_
- Represents his  
community
- Values women and elders
- Creates a \_\_\_\_\_
- Honors the \_\_\_\_\_

# *Elements of the Epic Hero Cycle:*

- Is often possessed of \_\_\_\_\_ abilities or qualities.
- Is tested, often to prove the \_\_\_\_\_ of himself and his quest.
- Encounters numerous \_\_\_\_\_ beings, magical and helpful animals, and human helpers and companions.
- Is charged with a quest.



## *More Elements of the Epic Hero Cycle*

- Travels to a supernatural world, often one that \_\_\_\_\_ human beings are barred from entering.
- Must reach a \_\_\_\_\_ point where he nearly gives up his quest or appears defeated.
- Experiences a \_\_\_\_\_
- Finds \_\_\_\_\_. Often this takes the form of the hero regaining his rightful place on the throne.

# *Greek Hero*

- **Birth/Origin:** Sons of gods or \_\_\_\_\_
- **Quest:** Heroes are called upon to make a journey -- to battle some beast that plagues the community or to retrieve something of value that was lost.
- **Goal:** Always for the good of the community
- **Journey:** The quest is not always clear. The hero frequently becomes lost or confused.
- **Danger:** Despite the trials, battles, or temptations, the hero feels isolation and alienation from his community. There is a real danger of him “giving up.”

# *Greek Hero - continued*

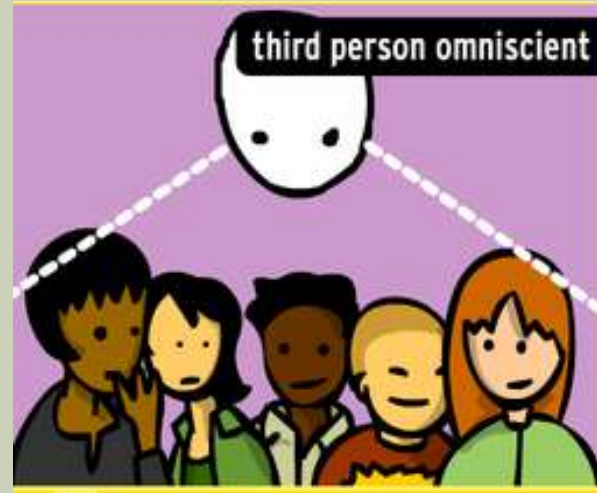
- **Friends:** They provide the hero with support, but they do not help the hero fully and therefore are not the help he needs. The hero must accomplish the task alone.
- **Guides:** They can help the hero, but often their powers are limited.
- **Darkness:** Because the hero is alone, he often retreats into despair and darkness
- **Success:** Ultimately a hero is always successful in his quest because he prevails over despair and he emerges from the darkness

# LITERARY TERMS

## EPIC HERO POINT OF VIEW: THIRD PERSON OMNISCIENT

A common form of third-person narration in which the teller of the tale, who often appears to speak with the voice of the author himself, assumes an \_\_\_\_\_(all-knowing) perspective on the story being told.

Note: Omniscient means ALL KNOWING



# LITERARY TERMS

## INVOCATION

- An invocation is an address to a deity, usually for help of some sort.
- The epic traditionally begins with an invocation to the Muse (a request for help in the telling of the tale).
- In fact, in an oral culture, the storyteller is considered merely a vessel through which the gods (particularly the Muses) speak. There are traditionally nine Muses, each presiding over a different genre of literature.
- The traditional Muse of epic poetry is Calliope, although Homer does not address her by name in his invocation at the beginning of the *Odyssey*.

# LITERARY TERMS

## NARRATIVE DRIFT

Homer is constantly interrupting the narration to elaborate on an aspect of what he is talking about. If he mentions a gift of wine, he will explain not only the history of the gift but the history of the giver. He rarely introduces a character without alluding to that character's genealogy and often follows this with an aside in the form of a story that is told with the same vividness as the main story.

# LITERARY TERMS

## EPIC SIMILE

Homer loves similes (a comparison between two seemingly unlike things using "like" or "as"). They can be found everywhere in *The Odyssey*. Homer often expands upon a simile, putting it into motion so to speak. These expanded similes are called **Homeric** or **epic similes**.

**As a man will bury his glowing brand in black ashes, off on a lonely farmstead, no neighbors near, to keep a spark alive,** so great Odysseus buried himself in leaves and Athena showered sleep upon his eyes.

I drove my weight on it from above and bored it home **like a shipwright bores his beam with a shipwright's drill** that men below, whipping the strap back and forth, whirl and the drill keeps twisting, never stopping

# LITERARY TERMS

## EPIC CATALOGUE

A list (usually long) of people, things, or attributes. It is a device used particularly by ancient and oral literatures, although it can also be find in modern poets such as Walt Whitman or Carl Sandb

**Examples in Homer's Odyssey include the many catalogues of dead heroes and women in Book XI.**



# LITERARY TERMS

## HUBRIS

Overreaching pride, resulting from the overconfidence of a protagonist. In Homer, it is usually directed against the gods, for example the belief that one accomplished some act without their help or the belief that humans do not need the gods in their everyday lives.

# PRIDE

# LITERARY TERMS

## EPITHETS

Homer repeatedly describes many of his characters or objects in his story with the same phrase. This phrase is called an epithet. Epithets are:

- ❖ Common epic elements which allow the reader to easily identify the character or object.
- ❖ Stress a quality of what they are describing. (The same character often is given several different epithets.)
- ❖ Were chosen to fit the meter of the line.
- ❖ Many translators, however, like to fit the epithet to an aspect of the character that is relevant to the moment.

# LITERARY TERMS

## EPITHETS (CONTINUED)

### Examples:

- ❖ "The great tactician" - This term creates the image of Odysseus as being intelligent, and probably comes from his being the initiator of the idea for the "Trojan horse."
- ❖ "The clear eyed goddess" - This helps the reader imagine that Athena is alert, and wise - farseeing.
- ❖ "The man of twists and turns" ( Odysseus)
- ❖ "The bewitching nymph" (Calypso)
- ❖ "Cool headed" (Telemachus)

# SEVEN DEADLY SINS

- 1. Wrath—
- 2. Greed—
- 3. Sloth—

# SEVEN DEADLY SINS

- 4. Pride—
- 5. Lust—
- 6. Envy—
- 7. Gluttony—

