UNIT INTRODUCTION

Note Taking

THE EPIC
Fill in the blanks to make complete sentences that will help you remember epic conventions: A LONG NARRATIVE POEM
1. An epic is __________________ Epics were often based on
   HISTORICAL FACT
2. Two examples of repeated elements in oral poetry are
   STOCK EPITHETS and KENNINGS
   - Stock epithets are __________________ An example of a stock epithet
     is swift-footed, gray-eyed goddess, brave battle
   - Kennings are __________________ An example of a kenning is
     Almighty’s enemy, sin-stained demon
3. Three blocks for reciting the epic’s improvisation
   - Building blocks

5. An epic hero has the following qualities:
   a. MALE, NOBLE BIRTH OR HIGH POSITION, GREAT HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE
   b. HERO’S CHARACTER TRAITS REFLECT SOCIETY’S IDEALS
   c. COURAGEOUS, PERFORM SUPER-HUMAN DEEDS
   d. ACTIONS DETERMINE FATE OF A NATION
6. These are elements shared by most epics. Write a definition for each term.
   a. The setting: TIME AND PLACE OF ACTION, EPIC SETTING IS VAST
   b. The plot: COMPLICATED, SUPER-NATURAL BEINGS, DANGEROUS JOURNEYS
   c. The dialogue: NARRATOR OBJECTIVE AND FORMAL, SPEAKS IN 3RD PERSON
   d. The theme: UNIVERSAL THEMES: GOOD VS. EVIL, LIFE VS. DEATH
   e. The style: SERIOUS TONE
   f. How it is said: CENTRAL IDEA/MESSAGE = AUTHOR’S INTENTION