

## UNIT INTRODUCTION

COPY MASTER

**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

ADJECTIVES THAT POINT OUT SPECIAL TRAITS OF A PERSON OR THING

BUILDING  
BLOCKS  
FOR SCOPS  
TO HELP  
RECITE  
THE EPIC;  
IMPROVISATION

3. Stock epithets are \_\_\_\_\_. An example of a stock epithet  
is swift-footed, gray-eyed goddess, brave battle

4. A kenning is \_\_\_\_\_. An example of a kenning is

Almighty's enemy, sin-stained demon

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.

The setting TIME AND PLACE OF ACTION. EPIC SETTING IS VAST

The plot COMPLICATED, super natural beings, dangerous journeys

The dialogue Narrator objective and formal. Speaks in 3rd person and past tense. SPEAKS ABOUT THE PAST/HISTORY

The theme universal themes: good vs. evil, life vs. death  
central idea/message = author's intention

The style serious tone

HOW IT IS SAID