

Genre: Epic Poem

A story of epic proportions: What makes a poem an epic?

Definition:

- An extended narrative poem recounting actions, travels, adventures, and heroic episodes and written in a high style (with ennobled diction, for example). It may be written in hexameter verse, especially dactylic hexameter, and it may have twelve or twenty-four books. (Glossary Literary Terms virtualsalt.com)

Purpose:

- To entertain
- To provoke thought and emotion
- To present a story about values and beliefs

Form and Features:

Qualities of an Epic:

- A physically impressive hero of national or historical importance
- A vast setting encompassing much of the known world and sometimes the Land of the Dead
- A quest or journey undertaken in search of something important
- The involvement of supernatural powers
- A basis in a specific culture or society

Qualities of an Epic Hero:

- Larger-than life figure usually male
- Embodies the ideals of a nation or race
- Take part in long, dangerous adventures and accomplish great deeds that require great courage and superhuman strength