

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

What is an **epic**? _____

Identify the traditional characteristics of most epics: _____

What are the characteristics of an **epic hero**? _____

The Hero's Journey: *Almost every hero goes through several basic stages. Describe the elements of each stage:*

Call to Adventure: _____

Initiation/Supreme Ordeal: _____

Unification/Transformation: _____

Road Back/Hero's Return: _____

Name a **modern epic** (movie or book) you are very familiar with and wouldn't mind writing a term paper about:

Title of Modern Epic: _____ Year: _____

Writer/Director: _____ Publisher/Production Co.: _____

Hero: When people describe a hero, they often use words such as "honorable," "brave," or "strong." There's nothing wrong with these descriptions, but there is no certain way that every hero always looks, thinks, or behaves. A hero can be young or old, male or female, shy or outgoing. Heroes do share a common function as symbols of the ideals and values of their communities and cultures. A hero learns something significant about the world and gains self-knowledge on his or her journey, returning to his or her community to share that enlightenment with others.

Name and describe the hero of your modern epic: _____

Birth: Often there are unusual circumstances surrounding the birth of a hero. The hero is frequently born to royalty or has a god or goddess as one of his or her parents. The hero is sometimes in danger at birth and needs to be hidden or disguised.

Describe the unusual circumstances of your modern epic hero's birth: _____

Call to Adventure: Heroes usually begin their journeys when a traumatic event occurs that leads to the hero wanting or needing to leave home.

What is the traumatic event your modern epic hero encounters? _____

Supernatural Helper: The hero is usually aided by someone, often old and wise, with magical and mystical power. This figure serves as a guide and mentor as the hero embarks into a new world and faces challenges to his or her life and character.

Who is your modern epic hero's helper? _____

Talisman/Special Weapon: The hero often has a weapon or protective device given to him or her that will be useful on the journey. The supernatural helper may be the one to give the hero the weapon or to tell him or her about it.

What is the talisman or special weapon of your modern epic hero? _____

Crossing the Threshold: The hero leaves the familiar, safe world of childhood and home and enters fully into the new world of the journey.

When does your modern epic hero cross the threshold? _____

Trials: The hero has to succeed at a series of trials that challenge and build his or her moral strength and character. Typically, one of these trials involves a descent into the underworld where the hero may experience a wound that cannot be healed.

Identify the trials of your modern epic hero: _____

Achievement of Goal: Upon successful completion of the trials, the hero achieves the ultimate goal of the journey.

What is the ultimate goal of your modern epic hero's journey? _____

Return Home: The hero, sometimes willingly and sometimes unwillingly, again crosses the threshold and returns home. He or she brings new wisdom and important cultural values back to the community upon return.

With what new wisdom/value does your modern epic hero return home? _____