Epic Unit Test Review
Part 1: Epic Tradition & Archetypes
What are the 10 Stages in the Hero’s Journey?
1. Birth
2. Call to Adventure
3. Helpers/Amulet (Inanimate)
4. Crossing the Threshold
5. Tests
6. Helpers (Animate)
7. Climax/The Final Battle
8. Flight
9. Return
10. Elixir
What is an Epic Poem?
An epic poem is a long narrative poem on a serious subject representing characters of heroic stature in adventures of great historical, legendary, or religious significance.
What are the Four Major Characteristics of an Epic Poem?
• 1. The setting of the work is vast in scope, covering a whole nation, the world, or even the universe.

• 2. The actions described in the work are deeds of great valor, often requiring superhuman strength, intelligence, or endurance.

• 3. Supernatural forces (gods, angels, demons) take interest in the action and intervene from time to time.

• 4. An elevated style and diction--deliberately distanced from everyday speech--is used throughout the poem.
What is an Epic Hero?
The Epic Hero is a larger-than-life hero who embodies the values of a particular society.

• He is braver, stronger, smarter, and cleverer than an ordinary person.
• On a quest for something of great value to him or to his people.
• Villains who try to keep the hero from his quest are usually uglier, more evil, and more cunning than anyone we know in ordinary life.
• Often of mixed divine and human birth and so possesses human weakness.
• The divine world (the gods) interferes with the human world.
What is an Epic Simile?
Long, extended comparisons that make the unfamiliar familiar by stressing its similarity to observable, common phenomena and objects. (Look for “like” or “as”.)

Example: 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 --So we seized our stake with it fiery tip and bored it round and round in the giant's eye.
What is an Invocation of the Muse(s)?
The **beginning** of an epic poem that asks a deity for **assistance** with a task. (The word “**invocation**” literally means “to call upon.”)

“Tell me, O Muse, of that ingenious hero who traveled far and wide after he had sacked the famous town of Troy.”

*The Odyssey* by Homer
Samuel Butler, 1835-1902 (1900)
What is a Patronymic Name?
A form of the father's name with an ending meaning “son of.” There is great importance attached to paternal lineage. (The root word “-patr-” means “father.”)

For Example: Odysseus is often referred to as “Laertes’ son...”
What is a an Epithet?
Adjectives or adjective phrases used to point out a **characteristic quality** of a person, a god, or, less frequently, an animal or an object.

"The great tactician" - This term creates the image of Odysseus as being intelligent, and probably comes 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.
What are Foreshadowing and Flashback?
Foreshadowing—hints or even direct statements regarding the outcome of important events.

Flashback—An interruption of a work's chronology to describe or present an incident that occurred prior to the main time frame of a work's action.
What does *in media(s) res* mean?
Latin for “in the middle of the action.”
Part 2: Writing
Prose vs. Poetry  How are they different?  How do you read an epic poem?
Prose—Text written in sentences and paragraphs without metrical structure.

Poetry—The art of rhythmical composition, written or spoken. Literary work in metrical form; verse.

Epic Poems are written in verse (poetry) but you read them like they are written in prose. In other words, you don’t stop reading until you get to an end stop (period, exclamation point, question mark.)
Man, supposing you and I, escaping this battle
would be able to live on forever, ageless, immortal,
so neither would I myself go on fighting in the foremost
nor would I urge you into the fighting where men win glory.
But now, seeing that the spirits of death stand close about us
in their thousands, no man can turn aside nor escape them,
let us go on and win glory for ourselves or yield it to others.

If this section from *The Iliad* was written in
**PROSE**, not **POETRY** how many sentences
would it be?
What is the 1-Chunk Paragraph Model for Writing?
Topic Sentence (TS)

Concrete Detail (CD): The CD should start with the transition "For example..."

Commentary Sentence 1 (CM1): "This is important because..."

Commentary Sentence 2 (CM2): “This is also important because...”

Concluding Sentence (CS): "As a result...," or another concluding transition.
What is Textual Evidence?
When you write informative, explanatory, or opinion pieces, you state your topic at the beginning of the passage (TS: Topic Sentence). The rest of the sentences in the passage should add details that support your topic (CD: Concrete Detail and CM: Commentary). It is important to use reasons, facts, and definitions to tell more about your points.

**Textual Evidence** is the “proof” that supports the topic.

**Example:** TS: In Homer’s *Odyssey*, Odysseus exhibits great cunning. CD: For example, in Book Nine, he devises a plan that not only allows him and his men to escape Polyphemous’ cave, but allows them to exact revenge on him as well.
What are transition words?

For example,

For instance,

Consequently,

Thus,

Because of this,

As a result,

In summary,

Hence,

Therefore,
Transition Words and Phrases help you easily transition between sentences and paragraphs

**Add information:**
- again
- another
- for instance
- for example
- also
- and
- moreover
- additionally
- as well
- besides
- along with
- other
- next
- finally
- in addition

**Conclude or Summarize:**
- finally
- as a result
- to sum up
- in conclusion
- lastly
- therefore
- all in all
- because

**Emphasize a point:**
- again
- truly
- especially
- for this reason
- to repeat
- in fact
- to emphasize

**Compare:**
- likewise
- also
- while
- in the same way
- like
- as
- Similarly

**Contrast:**
- but
- still
- although
- on the other hand
- however
- yet
- otherwise
- even though
What is **proper** Capitalization?

- ask not what your country can do for you.
- ask what you can do for your country.

John F. Kennedy
The first word of a sentence
example: When he tells a joke, he sometimes forgets the punch line.

The pronoun "I"
example: The last time I visited Chicago was several years ago.

Proper nouns
(the names of specific people, places, groups, and sometimes things)

examples:
Ivy Fabrication Company
Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Golden Gate Bridge
Atlantic Ocean

Family relationships
(when used as proper names)

examples: I sent a thank-you note to Aunt Annie, but not to my other aunts. Here is a present I bought for Mother.
The names of God, specific deities, or religious figures, and holy books (but not the non-specific use of the word "god")

examples:
God the Father
Moses
Zeus

Titles preceding names, but not titles that follow names
examples: She worked as the assistant to Mayor Golden. I was able to interview Karen Willis, mayor of Lawrenceburg.

Directions that are names
(North, South, East, and West when used as sections of the country, but not as compass directions)
example: The Simpsons have moved to the Northwest. Jim's house is two miles north of Southfield.
The days of the week, the months of the year, and holidays (but not the seasons used generally)

*examples:*
- Halloween
- Friday
- October
- spring
- Winter

The names of countries, nationalities, and specific languages

*examples:*
- Costa Rica
- Spanish
- English

The first word in a sentence that is a direct quote

*example:* Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds."
The major words in the titles of books, articles, and songs
(but not short prepositions or the articles "the," "a," or "an," if they are not the first word of the title)

*example:* One of John's favorite books is *The Catcher in the Rye.*

Members of national, political, racial, social, civic, and athletic groups
*examples:*
  - *Green Bay Packers*
  - *Democrats*
  - *African Americans*

Periods and events
(but not century numbers)

*examples:*
  - *Victorian Era*
  - *Great Depression*
  - sixteenth century
What is Theme?

Growing
Honesty
Conflict
Friendship
Heroism
Up
Love
Family
Deception
Tolerance
Theme is the... underlying meaning of the story, a universal truth, a significant statement the story is making about society, human nature, or the human condition.

The theme of a fable is its moral. The theme of a parable is its teaching. The theme of a piece of literature is its view about life and how people behave.
What are Context Clues and How are They Used?
Context clues are bits of information from the text that, when combined with prior knowledge, allow you to decide the meaning of unknown words in the story or article you are reading.

- Direct definition context clues
- Synonym context clues
- Antonym context clues
Direct Definition Context Clues are words that say, “Stop - don’t touch that dictionary. The definition of the word you don’t know is right here in the text!”

EXAMPLE:

- There are many theories, or ideas, about what made the Ice Ages happen.
Synonym context clues are words around a difficult word that mean the same or nearly the same as the word.

EXAMPLE:

- After seeing the picture of the starving children, we felt *compassion* or *pity* for their suffering.
Antonym context clues are words around a difficult word that mean the opposite or nearly the opposite as the word.

EXAMPLE:

- Joe was **reluctant** to take the job of captain of the team. He was afraid that the time it would take would hurt his grades. **On the other hand**, Billy was eager for the chance to be the team captain.
What are Connotation and Denotation?
**Denotation** means the explicit or direct meaning of a word; the dictionary definition.

- Hot: Having or giving off heat; having a high temperature

**Connotation** means the associated meaning of a word; the feelings or images that the word evokes.

- Hot: Someone who is very attractive; and item that has been stolen; extremely angry