

Characteristics of the Epic

An **epic** is a long, narrative poem about the adventures of a noble hero and usually includes distant journeys and themes of universal significance. When reading an epic, analyze its characteristics in a chart like the one below.

Characteristic	Title: <i>Star Wars</i>	Title:
Male hero of noble birth or legendary importance	Luke was specially chosen for his skills.	
Hero's character traits reflect important ideals	Luke uses the Force for good.	
Hero performs courageous acts	Luke battles the Stormtroopers and Darth Vader.	
Hero's actions determine the fate of his people	Luke saves the universe from evil.	
Vast setting	space	
Formal tone and diction		
Hero delivers long, formal speeches		
Plot involves supernatural beings	Yoda and Obi-wan; R2-D2 and C-3PO are not human.	
Plot involves a dangerous journey in foreign lands	Luke travels to different planets and battles in space.	
Reflects timeless values	Luke fights for his home; he reflects light and good.	
Deals with universal themes (good vs. evil)	Luke is good and Darth Vader is evil.	