
Epic Hero

An epic is a long, narrative poem that traces the adventures of a hero. An **epic hero** is a larger-than-life figure. Usually male and of noble birth, an epic hero takes part in long, dangerous adventures, accomplishes great deeds that require extraordinary courage and superhuman strength, and reflects the values and ideals of a nation or race. For example, Odysseus, the epic hero in the *Odyssey* by Homer, embodies many of the values and ideals that were honored in ancient Greek society. As you read an epic, create a web like this one to record some of the heroic qualities that the hero displays through his actions.

