An Introduction to *The Odyssey*
What are the essential questions for this unit?

• What is an epic? What are the characteristics of an epic?
• How can the Hero Journey Archetype be used to analyze *The Odyssey*?
• How does *The Odyssey* connect to the real world or to our lives?
• How does the journey prepare Odysseus to return home?
What is an epic?
What is an epic?

An epic is . . . .

1. A long ________ ___________
What is an epic?

An epic is . . . .

1. A long narrative poem
2. Using _________ or _________ language
What is an epic?

An epic is . . . .

1. A long narrative poem
2. Using elevated or dignified language
3. Focused on a hero and the __________
   ____________
A long narrative poem
2. Using elevated or dignified language
3. Focused on a hero and the hero’s adventures
4. The outcome of the adventures is important to the ______________________________.
What is usually true of an epic?

• Setting is __________
• __________ forces are involved
• Hero is of imposing stature; actions require __________________________
The Odyssey

• An epic from Ancient Greece
• Passed down through _______ __________
• Homer wrote it down probably around 1200 BC (400 years after the fall of Troy).
• Intended to ____________ (manners and customs)
  – Teaches about Greek hospitality, proper courting, and role models
The epic hero Odysseus
The epic hero Odysseus

• Strong brave warrior
The epic hero Odyssey

• Strong brave warrior
• King of ____________
The epic hero Odyssey

- Strong brave warrior
- King of Ithaka
- Cunning; intelligent
The epic hero Odyssey

- Strong brave warrior
- King of Ithaka
- Cunning; intelligent
- Character Flaw=______

[Image of a sculpture, possibly representing the epic hero Odysseus.]
The epic hero Odysseus

- Strong brave warrior
- King of Ithaka
- Cunning; intelligent
- Character Flaw = Hubris
- Hubris - excessive pride; thinking one is greater than the gods.
Key Elements

• Begins with the _____________________
• In media res- starts “__________________” and then flashback to fill in the whole story.
• ___________ - descriptive phrases that point to a characteristic of a person; becomes part of the __________________________ in the epic.
• Homeric ________________
• _________________ - lots of it
• Hubris –
  – excessive pride, ____________, offensive to the ____________ and punishable by the gods
Greek Terms: Xenia

- Xenia – _________________; generosity and courtesy shown to those who are far from home
Greek Terms: Kleos

• Kleos –
  – ___________________________; can be earned in battle or through storytelling;

Think About it:
  Odysseus’s Mother + Antiklea
  What does her name suggest?
Greek Values at Odds

• --> The desire for _________ and the desire for ____________ are often at odds in the epic.

• Why might that be?
The *Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

- The *Iliad* and *The Odyssey* were passed down orally.
- Homer wrote these two stories down.
- *The Iliad* is the prequel to *The Odyssey*; it focuses on the Trojan War and the great hero Achilles.
- Before we begin *The Odyssey*, you need to understand what happens before . . . .
Themes

• Themes
  – The hero and the hero journey
  – Civility versus savagery
  – Divine plan vs. Free will
  – Home and homecoming
  – Identity and Leadership
Motifs – see handout

- hubris
- praying
- loyalty/disloyalty
- father/son relationships
- kleos
- nostos
- xenia
The Structure

- Books 1-4 – “The Wanderings of _________”
- Books 5-13 – “The Wanderings of _________”
- Books 14-24 – “Odysseus’ Return to _________”