

# Epic Literary Terms

(No Pun Intended)

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## The Epic

- Long narrative poem about the deeds of an epic hero

## Epic Hero

- The central figure of an epic
- Actions are inspiring or noble

## Epic Simile/Homeric Simile

- An ELABORATE comparison of unlike subjects

## Tragic Flaw

- A weakness in the hero's character

## Symbolism

- Frequent use of words, places, characters, or objects that mean something beyond what they are on a literal level

## Irony

- Indicating through character or plot development an intention or attitude opposite to that which is actually stated

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## Imagery

- The "mental pictures" that readers experience with a passage of literature
  - Often appeals to senses

## Foreshadowing

- Hints of future events in a piece of literature

## Flashback

- Writers' technique in which the author interrupts the plot of the story to recreate an incident of an earlier time (goes back in time; like giving the reader a memory).

## In Media res

- The classical tradition of opening an **epic** not in the chronological point at which the sequence of events would start, but rather at the midway point of the story.