



ILLIAD:

BASIC FEATURES OF AN EPIC:

- 1) Distance between characters and audience/readers. This occurs primarily due to time gap – the epic is situated in the antiquity.
- 2) The epic is not immediate, it is temporally distant.
- 3) These are usually in the form of long verses.
- 4) The characters are usually of the nobility – warriors, kings.
- 5) The subjects of beauty, valour, bravery and nobility of character are common.
- 6) The subject matter is often a war.
- 7) Deriving from the last point, an epic can be seen as a nation-building and consolidation exercise – the memory of a glorious war in the past, usually involving common (imagined) ancestors, to promote a feeling of community and clanhood.
- 8) It reflects tradition and culture. by placing it in some antiquity, is culture recognised.
- 9) Elevated content, said in an elevated manner, to maintain the narratorial distance.
- 10) Familiarity between readers and characters revisited continuously.
- 11) They provide archetypes and models.
- 12) Situated in oral tradition. Textualized only much later.
- 13) Originally sang from memory, by roaming bards. The use of the Heroic Hexameter, is thus useful, in facilitating recitation from memory.
- 14) Certain things might be altered by telling and memory – storyteller has a strong influence.
- 15) Great emphasis upon genealogy and descent. This is integrally related to the imagination of a glorious national imagination.