

Aeneid Unit: Project Assignment

Vergil wrote in the “epic tradition”, a tradition that began centuries before him and has continued for centuries afterward. For this project, you will read and research another epic and present your findings to the class. In your research, answer the following questions:

1. Who is the hero in this epic?
2. What is the basic storyline of the epic?
3. What traditional epic characteristics does this work show?

Some of these characteristics, as we have discussed, include:

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A. central focus on the hero | F. Divine machinery |
| B. beginning <i>in medias res</i> | G. Epithets |
| C. flashback | H. Similes / extended similes |
| D. Invocation to the god(s) | I. Descent into the Underworld |
| E. Catalogues / lists | J. Meter |

You will present your findings to the class in audio-visual format (PowerPoint is best!).

Possible choices:

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ➤ Dante’s <i>Inferno</i> | ➤ <i>Nieblunglied</i> |
| ➤ Joyce’s <i>Ulysses</i> | ➤ <i>Mahabharata</i> |
| ➤ Milton’s <i>Paradise Lost</i> | ➤ <i>El Cid</i> |
| ➤ <i>Beowulf</i> | ➤ <i>Iliad</i> |
| ➤ <i>Song of Roland</i> | ➤ <i>Epic of Gilgamesh</i> |

You must cite your primary and secondary sources at the end of your PowerPoint or other presentation, in **MLA format**.

% of Grade	Task	Grading Criteria
25%	Determine and discuss the major characters (including the hero) and basic plot of your story.	Well-thought-out, intelligent and CONCISE portrayal of story
30% (10% each)	Determine at least 3 “epic characteristics” that show up in this story and explain.	Coherent, concise and thoughtful presentation of characteristics.
20%	Use at least 2 reliable sources and cite them in MLA format	Sources are reliable; MLA citations
25%	Include all of these elements in a multimedia presentation for the class (preferably a PowerPoint).	Neatness, quality of presentation materials, all elements included, student attitude during presentation, NO PARAGRAPHS on PPT or poster, between 3 and 5 minutes long