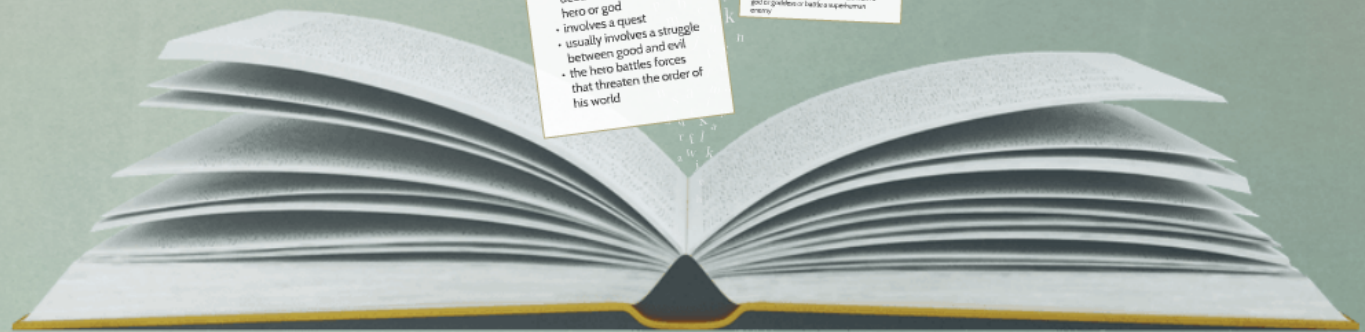




# Epic Poem and Epic Hero

Anglo-Saxon and  
Middle Ages Unit



## The Epic Hero Cycle

- 1) The hero is thought of as a great warrior.
- 2) The hero is tested at the beginning of his journey.
- 3) The hero is allowed to experience the world of the enemy and to learn the ways of the enemy.
- 4) The hero is able to defeat the enemy and to return home.
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- 7) The hero is able to defeat the enemy and to return home.
- 8) The hero is able to defeat the enemy and to return home.

## The Epic Poem

- long narrative poem written in elevated style which celebrates the deeds of a legendary hero or god
- involves a quest
- usually involves a struggle between good and evil
- the hero battles forces that threaten the order of his world

## Beowulf



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and heroic  
6) *humility*  
great praise  
7) *faces sup*  
*supernatura*  
god or godde  
enemy

# *The Epic Hero*

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## Traits

- 1) ***a noble birth***-most epic heroes will have an above-average station in life (kings, princes, nobles, etc.) Commoners usually do not become epic heroes.
- 2) ***capable of deeds of great strength and courage***
- 3) ***great warrior***- the hero has usually established himself in combat during war
- 4) ***travels over a vast setting***- distance makes the hero's actions greater- they are for their country and people
- 5) ***national heroism***- the character is recognized in his home country as a great and heroic person
- 6) ***humility***- does not complete his quest for great praise and rewards
- 7) ***faces supernatural foes and/or receives supernatural help***- may receive aid from a god or goddess or battle a superhuman enemy

# *The Epic Hero Cycle*

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- 1) The hero is charged with a quest.
- 2) The hero is tested, often to prove his worthiness.
- 3) The hero is introduced to numerous mythical beings (magical and helpful animals, human and nonhuman helpers and companions.
- 4) The hero's travels take him to a supernatural world, often one that normal human beings are barred from entering.
- 5) The hero nearly gives up his quest or appears defeated.
- 6) The hero is resurrected- finds the courage and strength to continue his quest.
- 7) The hero completes his quest.

Embodie  
Saxons v  
• braver  
• militar  
• leaders  
• heritag  
• wisdom

# *Beowulf*

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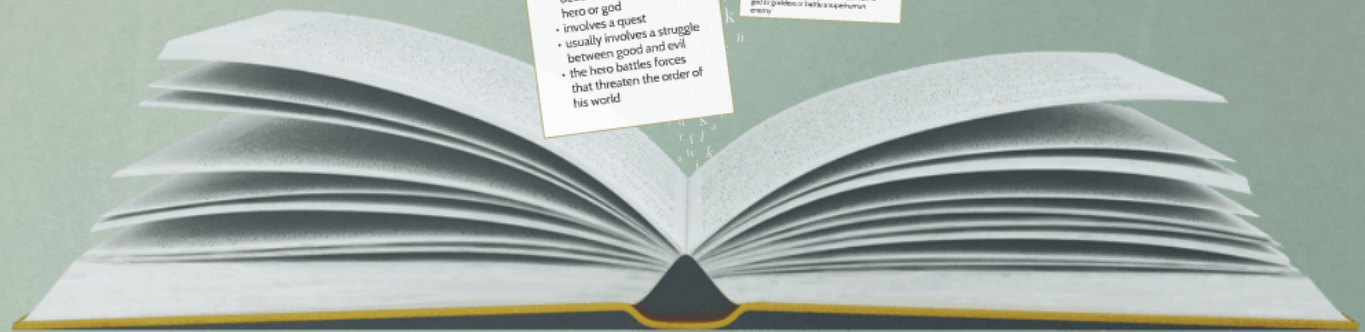


Embodies the qualities that the Anglo-Saxons valued:

- bravery
- military skill and prowess
- leadership
- heritage
- wisdom

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## Bowdley



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