**Tips**

\*Be as specific as possible. Bring in quotes (cite page numbers) and examples from the work you read.

\*Only include a small amount of plot summary (think about the basic summary that someone who hasn’t read the book would need to know). Most of your essay should be analyzing how different parts of the book do or do not fit the epic structure.

\*Support your claims with details from the book. For example, if you were to argue that your protagonist is a Hero as Scapegoat, you should briefly describe a scene that shows this character fitting that heroic archetype.

**Part 1: Characteristics of the Epic Structure, a Checklist**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Element** | **My book does NOT have this (if you check this, ignore the 3 boxes to the right)** | **My book does have this** | **Example of this in the book** | **Page number for the example** |
| The setting is vast |  |  |  |  |
| The language is elevated |  |  |  |  |
| The hero/heroine is of great importance |  |  |  |  |
| Supernatural beings are involved |  |  |  |  |
| The plot begins *in medias res* (in the middle of things) |  |  |  |  |
| The hero/heroine accomplishes superhuman deeds in battle |  |  |  |  |

**Part 2: Heroic Archetypes, a Checklist (your hero/heroine can be more than one archetype)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Qualities of a Hero/Heroine** | **Check this box if your hero/heroine has these qualities** | **If they have these qualities, where do we see this in the book?** | **If you were able to fill in the 2nd and 3rd column, your hero/heroine is a(n)** |
| A god-like hero faces physical challenges and external enemies |  |  | Hero as Warrior |
| A hero is motivated to complete a quest for “pure love.” |  |  | Hero as Lover |
| A hero suffers for the sake of others. |  |  | Hero as Scapegoat |
| A heroic lover who has a dark side. |  |  | Gothic Hero |
| A hero who faces the possible destruction of society. |  |  | Apocalyptic Hero |
| A non-hero who fails and is often humorous. |  |  | Anti-Hero |
| A hero who opposes a society’s beliefs. |  |  | Defiant Anti-Hero |

**Part 3: Stage of the Epic Journey, a Checklist**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description of Actions** | **Does your hero/heroine do this (or have this happen)?** | **If this happen, where does it happen?** | **This stage is called…** |
| The hero reluctantly begins an adventure. |  |  | Departure |
| The hero enters a new, more dangerous world, and he/she begins to mature. |  |  | Initiation |
| The hero’s strength, intelligence, and/or endurance is tested multiple times. There might be supernatural help. |  |  | Road of Trials |
| The hero faces his/her greatest trial, and is reborn in some way. This is usually the big turning point for the character. |  |  | Innermost Cave |
| The hero returns home, as a wiser and more mature person. He/she often restores some type of order to his/her home. |  |  | Return and Reintegration into Society |

**Part 4: Putting Everything Together**

1. Review Parts 1, 2, and 3. How much of the epic structure does your novel have?
2. Do you now think your novel is an example of a modern epic? Why or why not?