***Odyssey* and Epic PoetryInformation**

**Epic Hero Traits**:

1. Central hero of epic poem (e.g. Odysseus)
2. Larger-than-life figure from history or legend
3. Importance: national, international, cosmic
4. Traits of the hero are those valued by his society
5. He must be noble and possess undying virtue.

**Themes in the *Odyssey***

1. loyalty, devotion, fortitude
2. Greek ideal of strong body and strong intellect
3. Wandering hero returning home
4. Triumph of good over evil
5. Obedience to laws of gods

**Epic Vocabulary**

1. Epic poem –
2. In medias res
3. Invocation to the gods:
4. Archetype: character, image, or situation that appears in lit of all cultures and all times
5. Epic simile and Homeric simile-long & elaborate comparison of unlike subjects using words *like, as, just as, so*
6. Flashback: scene that interrupts a narrative to relate earlier events
7. Guile: (filled with) crafty, cunning, clever, wily
8. Hubris: arrogance caused by excessive pride or self-confidence
9. Myths: Fictional tales that:

 a) describe actions of gods & heroes

 b) explain causes of natural phenomena

 7. Muses: spirits that inspire poets (the daughters of Zeus):

* There are 9 omniscient goddesses of art, literature, & science. **Calliope** is the muse of epic poetry.