**Writing a Mock Epic or Ballad**

Assignment: You are going to try your hand at some narrative poetry. The assignment is to write a mock epic or ballad, which means your poem does not have to be serious. You can take a humorous tone. However, you will still need to meet some requirements of the genre.

Epics must …

Feature a larger-than-life hero.

Tell a story about a quest that the hero undertakes. (It does not have to be serious. The quest could be cleaning out your bedroom.)

Use hyperbole (exaggeration).

Ballads must …

Tell a story with a conflict about a sad event like lost love, betrayal or death. (It does not have to be serious. The betrayal could be that your best friend sat with someone else at lunch.)

Use some repetition or a refrain.

**Planning your epic or ballad**

1. Circle one: epic or ballad
2. Describe the main character. (Remember an epic’s main character must be a larger-than-life hero.)
3. What point of view will this be in?
4. Describe the conflict or quest.
5. Describe the rising action events. (What events will lead up to the climax?) You can list them.
6. Describe the climax.
7. Describe how the conflict or quest is resolved.

**Epic**

**Name:**

* Poem has an epic hero who is unique in some way. \_\_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts
* Hero has some kind of question, mission or adventure. \_\_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts
* Poem tells a clear story with rising action, climax and resolution. \_\_\_\_\_\_/ 35 pts
* Poem uses hyperbole\_\_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts
* Poem has effective line breaks. \_\_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts
* Poem effectively uses other literary device. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ /5 pts

**Ballad**

**Name:**

* Poem is about some kind of tragedy (death, betrayal, lost love, etc) \_\_\_\_\_\_/ 30 pts
* Poem tells a clear story with rising action, climax and resolution. \_\_\_\_\_\_/35 pts
* Poem uses repetition. \_\_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts
* Poem has effective line breaks. \_\_\_\_\_\_/ 15 pts
* Poem effectively uses other literary device or utilizes rhyme scheme. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ 5 pts