

## Characteristics of Epic Poetry:

- *In medias res*: in the middle of things
- Relationships between Humans and Gods
- Intervention of Gods in Human Affairs
- Long speeches, repetition of key phrases
- Council of the Gods
- Personal preferences of the (anthropomorphic) gods
- Focus on National Hero
- Epic Similes
- Invocation of the Muse: Calliope
- Catalogs:
  - ships (*Iliad*)
  - warriors (*Iliad*)
  - (Ishtar's) lovers (*Gilgamesh*)

## Motifs:

- Mourning for a friend
- Return after challenging adventures
- Gods' council and preferences