

# Epic Heroes

Hello! I'm Hermes, messenger of the Ancient Greek gods. I'm going to be your guide to the the epic tales of the Iliad and the Odyssey...



What do you think of when you hear the word epic?

The word comes from the Greek work 'epos', which means 'word' or 'song'. The word 'epic' started out as a way of describing a long poem, often describing the heroic actions of legendary characters.



Today, and for the next few lessons, we're going to look at an Ancient Greek epic, The Iliad and This epic stories started out life as an oral poem over two thousand years ago. At first, the tale wasn't written down and passed on in books, but was told out loud and memorised by the people telling it. Pretty amazing when you think that the story is over fifteen thousand lines long!

At some point, the tales were written down. The person who was given credit for this was called Homer. But even that is a bit confusing: some parts of the story are so different from each other that it's likely there was more than just the one author.

The stories of the Iliad and the Odyssey tell of gods, goddesses, heroes and monsters. You may have heard of some of them. Since the Ancient Greek gods and goddesses play such an important part in our two epic stories, let's start by finding out a little bit about these characters...



Now you've heard the epic tale of the Iliad, can you remember who is on which side in the Trojan War? Sort the names below into the correct Team Box.

- Agamemnon
- Achilles
- Athena
- Paris
- Odysseus
- Menelaus
- Helen
- Zeus
- Apollo
- Aphrodite
- Hector

TEAM GREEK

TEAM TROJAN