Name:

**The Odyssey, Epic Poem Example**

**by: Homer**

Eidothea, now,

had slipped beneath the sea’s engulfing folds

but back from the waves she came with four sealskins,

all freshly stripped, to deceive her father blind.

She scooped out lurking-places deep in the sand

and sat there waiting as we approached her post,

then couching us side-by-side she flung a sealskin

over each man’s back. Now there was an ambush

that would have overpowered us all—overpowering,

 true, the awful reek of all those sea-fed brutes!

Who’d dream of bedding down with a monster of the deep?

But the goddess sped to our rescue, found the cure

with ambrosia, daubing it under each man’s nose—

that lovely scent, it drowned the creatures’ stench.

So all morning we lay there waiting, spirits steeled,

while seals came crowding, jostling out of the sea

and flopped down in rows, basking along the surf.

At high noon the old man emerged from the waves

and found his fat-fed seals and made his rounds,

counting them off, counting us the first four,

but he had no inkling of all the fraud afoot.

Then down he lay and slept, but we with a battle-cry,

we rushed him, flung our arms around him—he’d lost nothing,

the old rascal, none of his cunning quick techniques!

First he shifted into a great bearded lion

and then a serpent—

a panther—

a ramping wild boar—

a torrent of water—

a tree with soaring branchtops—

but we held on for dear life, braving it out

until, at last, that quick-change artist,

the old wizard, began to weary of all this

and burst out into rapid-fire questions:

‘Which god, Menelaus, conspired with you

to trap me in ambush? seize me against my will?

What on earth do you want?’

**After reading and discussing the epic poem above, please answer the following questions:**

What are the elements in an epic poem?

Explain how is Homers’ *The Odyssey* an example of an epic poem:

What is an epic hero?

What role does the epic hero play in epic poems?

**In the space below, create your own epic poem, which depicts *you* as the epic hero:**

**Requirements:**

* Minimum of 15 lines
* In the format of an epic poem
* Depicts you as the epic hero
* Events are significant to modern culture
* Depicts adventurous and intense heroic adventures