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the longest written epic from antiquity is the ancient indian mahabharata c 3rd century bc 3rd century ad which consists of 100 000 ślokas or over 200 000 verse lines each shloka is a couplet as well as long prose passages so that at 1 8 million words it is roughly twice the length of shahnameh four times the length of the definition of epic an epic is a long narrative poem that is elevated and dignified in theme tone and style as a literary device an epic celebrates heroic deeds and historically or even cosmically important events an epic usually focuses on the adventures of a hero who has qualities that are superhuman or divine and on whose very fate written by last updated aug 16 2021 4 min read from melville and tolkien voluminous tales of ancient heroes embarking on lengthy journeys are common in prose literature but before they were documented in prose these lengthy narratives fell into the domain of epic poetry epic long narrative poem recounting heroic deeds although the term has also been loosely used to describe novels such as leo tolstoy s war and peace and motion pictures such as sergey eisenstein s ivan the terrible in literary usage the term encompasses both oral and written compositions epic academy of american poets epic is a long often book length narrative in verse form that retells the heroic journey of a single person or group of persons discover more poetic terms history of the epic form the word epic comes from latin epicus and from greek epikos meaning a word a story poetry in heroic verse the usual claim that a novel like gone with the wind is an epic harks back to a renaissance argument that epics could be written in prose but even if we look at the epic more strictly as being a long heroic poem there are many epics in english literary history an epic eh pic poem is a long typically novel length poetic work it is a type of narrative poem which tells a story typically in third person point of view through the typical conventions of poetry epic poetry the art of storytelling through prose epic poetry is one of the oldest types of poetry that has existed in the world and it has been around since ancient times in casual usage the word epic describes any long narrative text whether prose or poetry epic derives from the greek word epos meaning word tale speech poem the oldest known epic is in the fifteenth century about fifty epic songs were adapted in prose the most famous old french epic poem the song of roland is probably one of the oldest toward the end of the twelfth century poems started to be grouped in cycles linked by a common theme such as the first crusade or a lineage western literature has often been conceptualised as a huge family tree in his anxiety of influence for example harold bloom views connections between texts as oedipal relationships between fathers and sons 15 in his giant dysfunctional family homer has a place of honour bloom writes everyone who now reads and writes in the west of an epic is a long narrative poem that tells the story of heroic deeds normally accomplished by more than human characters e g this ancient epic poem tells the story of a heroic journey and contains themes of courage and loyalty whether male or female the men and women in these poems are the best humanity offers quick answer henry fielding defines joseph andrews as a comic epic poem in prose to emphasize that an epic can be written in prose that this novel has epic qualities and that humor 4 henry fielding 1707 1754 the comic epic in prose published online by cambridge university press 28 september 2012 by thomas lockwood edited by michael bell chapter get access cite summary what does the noun prose epic mean there is one meaning in oed s entry for the noun prose epic see meaning use for definition usage and quotation evidence see meaning use how common is the noun prose epic about 0 02 occurrences per million words in modern written english see frequency where does the noun prose epic come from the comic epic in prose as fielding styles the new genre of literature which he evolved admits a variety of characters and incidents its scale is epical comprehensive and large the tone however is light comical mildly satirical and ironical often verging on the frivolous thomas lockwood henry fielding the comic epic in prose the cambridge companion to european novelists ed mchael bell cambridge university press 2012 status of research what if you read something in prose translation such as the epic of gilgamesh or the odyssey both of which have respected translations that are rendered in prose does that eliminate the epic ness of it 1 countable noun an epic is a long book poem or film whose story extends over a long period of time or tells of great events the middle high german epic nibelungenlied written

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