

Name:

Pre-IB English 10A_peluso
Big Fish

Convention: (4)a rule, method, or practice established by usage; custom: *the convention of showing north at the top of a map.*

Like most everything else, there is a traditional way to write epics. Certain literary elements are used over and over again in different epics; they have become customary to epics. These elements are called *epic conventions* and they are: **Invocation, In Media Res, Flashback, Divine Machinery, Use of History, Journey to the Underworld, Elevated Speech, Cataloguing, Hubris, and Epithets.**

Daniel Wallace wrote *Big Fish* in the traditional form of other epics, and does use these epic conventions. For each convention, identify where in the book it is used and a quote the shows each epic convention.

- Invocation

Asking for help in telling a story

- In Media Res

Starting in the middle of a story

- Flashback

- Divine Machinery

God getting involved in the lives of mortals and influencing outcomes

- Use of History

Places and people mentioned are real things in history

- Journey to the Underworld

- Elevated Speech

Speaking in a formal way; speaking in a high register

- Cataloguing

Lists of things

- Hubris

Pride; Odysseus' epic flaw

- Epithets

A characterizing word or phrase