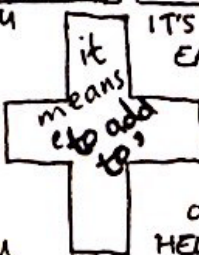


WHAT EXACTLY IS AN **EPITHET**?



AN EPITHET IS, TECHNICALLY SPEAKING, AN ADJECTIVAL CLUSTER USED TO ADD DETAIL TO A CHARACTER - JUST LIKE WE'D DESCRIBE THE FEATURES OF SOMEONE TO BUILD A PICTURE OF THEM.



IT'S FORMULAIC (SHORT, EASY-TO-REMEMBER), WHICH MAKES IT PERFECT FOR ORAL POETRY. IT CREATES VISUAL IMAGERY OR ADDS CHARACTER HELPING THE AUDIENCE.



ORAL POETRY, SUCH AS HOMER'S EPICS, WAS COMPOSED IN METER:

DACTYLIC HEXAMETER?

1 - u u 2 - u u 3 - u u 4 - u u 5 - u u ⑥ - u u
- u u - u u swift footed - u u - u u - u u
- u u - u u - u u - or-eyed - u u - u u

EPITHETS ARE USEFUL IN FILLING OUT THE BEATS!

so, epithets are oral and descriptive techniques to add detail and background.

TYPES OF EPITHET:

white-armed : upper class; stays indoors (woman)
great-hearted : brave
resourceful : clever, ingenuitive
ox-eyed : long-eyelashes, possibly dark-lined eyes
swift-running : fast!
silver-footed : fast, but also supernatural
stalwart : stands firm
god-like : tall, beautiful, strong, basically like a god!



'PATRONYMIC'



WHEN THE PATERNAL PARENT IS USED AS A REFERENCE. (ALTHOUGH THIS IS ALSO CALLED **ANTONOMASIA** WHEN 'SON OF...' IS USED INSTEAD OF THE CHARACTER'S NAME)

AMENDE LAUX +
AGAMENNON