

POETRY

Elements of a Ballad

- Short, simple stanzas (usually four lines)
- Often use dialogue and repetition
- Regular meter (typically iambic tetrameter or trimeter)
- Themes include love, tragedy, or adventure



[The Ballad of Reading Gaol | The Poetry Foundation](#)



The Ballad of Reading Gaol

BY OSCAR WILDE

I

He did not wear his scarlet coat,
For blood and wine are red,
And blood and wine were on his hands
When they found him with the dead,
The poor dead woman whom he loved,
And murdered in her bed.

He walked amongst the Trial Men
In a suit of shabby gray;
A cricket cap was on his head,
And his step seemed light and gay;
But I never saw a man who looked
So wistfully at the day.

Elements of an Epic

- Long, narrative poems (usually several hundred lines long)
- Focus on a hero's journey or significant events in a culture's history
- Elevated language and formal tone
- Often include divine intervention and supernatural elements
- Examples: The Odyssey by Homer, Beowulf, The Aeneid by Virgil

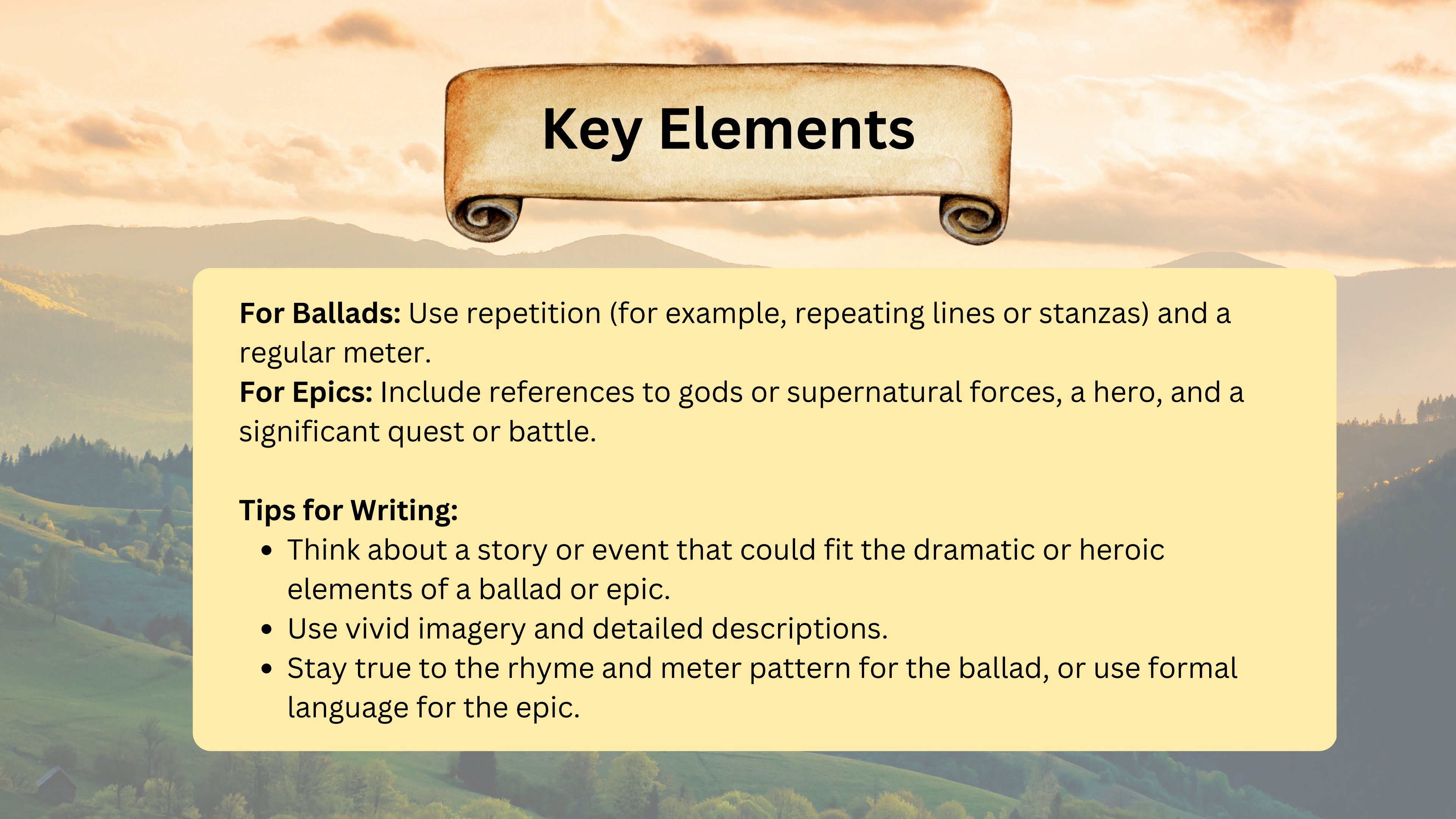


Assignment

Choose Your Form:

Ballad: Write a poem that tells a story. It should have four-line stanzas (quatrains), use a regular rhyme scheme (ABAB or ABCB), and focus on a dramatic or emotional theme, such as love, loss, or adventure. Your ballad should have a clear narrative.

Epic: Write a long poem (at least 10-15 lines) about a hero's journey or a significant event. The poem should use formal, elevated language and include elements of mythology, supernatural beings, or grand challenges. Your epic could focus on a quest, war, or legendary adventure.



Key Elements

For Ballads: Use repetition (for example, repeating lines or stanzas) and a regular meter.

For Epics: Include references to gods or supernatural forces, a hero, and a significant quest or battle.

Tips for Writing:

- Think about a story or event that could fit the dramatic or heroic elements of a ballad or epic.
- Use vivid imagery and detailed descriptions.
- Stay true to the rhyme and meter pattern for the ballad, or use formal language for the epic.