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*The Lord of the Rings and the Epic:*  
**Additional Scenes for Study**

**FOTR=The Fellowship of the Ring**

**TT=The Two Towers**

**ROTK=The Return of the King**

**Examples of subplots in the film:**

- The One Ring of Power and Sauron's desire for it.
- Gollum's bewitchment by the Ring.
- The Elves' departure from Middle Earth
- Competition between Boromir and Aragorn
- Relationship between Faramir and Denethor, his father
- Aragorn's heritage and destiny
- Love story of Arwen and Aragorn
- The wizards and their relationship to Sauron
- Sarumon, his evil creation and destruction of the environment
- The relationship between Frodo and Sam

**Epic Characteristic #1: Back-story**

ROTK scene 1: The Finding of the Ring

ROTK, scene 41: The Tomb of the Stewards

ROTK, scene 31: Aragorn Takes the Paths of the Dead

ROTK, scene 39: The Story Foreseen from Lorien

**Epic Characteristic #2: Epics involve a journey or quest of some kind.**

- Frodo's and Sam's journey to Mordor to destroy the Ring of Power.
- Journeys of the other characters to help accomplish this goal.
- Psychological journeys of the characters.
- Eowyn's journey to Pelannor Field

**Epic Characteristic #3: Epics always feature a conflict and usually a war or series of battles.** An epic may focus on a character's or characters' personal journey(s), but that journey takes place in a broader context of turmoil, such as during a war, a period of unrest, or a national crisis of some kind.

**Epic Characteristic #4:** The setting is remote in time and place; that is, Middle Earth.

TT, scene 52: The Entmoot

**Epic Characteristic # 5:** The style of writing used is formal, dignified **and** **#7:** Epics contain central incident or series of incidents dealing with legendary or traditional material.

FOTR, scene 1: One Ring to Rule Them All

FOTR scene 8: The Account of Isildur. Gandalf visits the library at Minas Tirith to do research among ancient manuscripts.

TT, scene 65: The Battle for Middle-earth is About to Begin

**Epic Characteristic #8:** The theme focuses on universal human problems, treated with some degree of seriousness.

TT, scene 37: Grace of the Valar

**Epic Characteristic #9** An epic must have at least one hero of great stature. Though not all characters are heroic, one of them definitely is. **And #10:** The heroic characters demonstrate superhuman strength of body, character or mind.

FOTR, scene 45: The Departure of Boromir

ROTK scene 19 and 20: The Lighting of the Beacons and Theoden's subsequent decision to join the battle.

**Epic Characteristic #11:** Supernatural forces enter the action.

FOTR scene 12: Saruman the White and his conflict with Gandalf the Grey

ROTK scene 33: The underwater monster at Moria

FOTR scene 36: The Bridge of Khazad-dum (the Balrog)

FOTR scene 39: The Mirror of Galadriel (think of oracles and soothsayers)

FOTR: Galadriel's gifts to the Fellowship

TT scene 39: The Story Foreseen from Lorien

ROTK scene 8 : The Palantir