

Canadian Long Poem

- Helps answer Northrop Frye's question, "Where is here?"
- Helps resolve conflict between centre and periphery, imperial and regional.
- Satisfies our need to give a **history/narrative** to our country.

Narrative

- Narrative, unlike the long poem, is not a literary genre (or category), but **the process of relating the sequence of events, circumstances, changes, movements which constitute the story within literary genres**, such as novels, short stories, plays, and long narrative poems, as well as non-literary genres such as murals or other visual arts, television shows, advertising, etc.

- As this definition applies to literary texts, it refers to a method of looking closely at the elements of a work—for example, **language, narrative, genre, use of particular images or literary devices, structure, in a poem, rhyme scheme form**—and suggesting what is the effect of the organization of the work around these elements, or, in other words, what those elements tell us about the work and the meanings it produces.

- Narrative is **not always** synonymous with **plot**, but can sometimes be used interchangeably with that term—when, for instance, you are referring to things that happen in a literary text. Narrative includes the question of **how**—as well as what—things are represented in a story.

- Narrative represents what purports to be a natural ordering of events into a sequence: there is usually logic in narrative (cause and effect, for instance).
- At one level, narrative can be understood in terms of a desire to find or to impose a kind of order on events: thus we look for it in events or series of events (telling *stories* of things that happen to us) or impose it on events (configuring a set of circumstances as a story, with a beginning and an end--or “closure”).

Canadian Long Poem

- The question we must ask is,
- **WHY DO CANADIANS LIKE TO WRITE THEM AND READ THEM?**
- **WHY IS NARRATIVE SO IMPORTANT TO CANADIANS?**

Canadian Long Poem and Narrative

- Satisfies our need to give a history/narrative to our country.
- In this sense, narrative is linked to the literary **epic**, a lengthy narrative poem, ordinarily concerning a serious subject containing details of heroic deeds and events significant to a culture or nation.

Canadian Long Poem

- Helps answer Northrop Frye's question, "Where is here?"
- Helps resolve conflict between centre and periphery, imperial and regional.
- Satisfies our need to give a history/narrative to our country.
- Helped us understand the role of "land" in the development of Canada, as land was not entirely equated with property and personal worth as it was in Britain. Instead, "land" was described as part of a process of the settlement of the country. It took all people and social classes to "level" the land.

Towards the Last Spike



Towards the Last Spike



- Is it a documentary as much as a poem?
- What are the components of a documentary?
- A creative treatment of reality?

Towards the Last Spike

- What do the first 12 lines reveal about the poem's theme? (p356)
- What is announced in these first 12 lines?
- Take 2 minutes to reread.

- The opening twelve lines of the poem give a general view of man's place in nature.
- What is this view?

Towards the Last Spike

- The opening twelve lines of the poem give a general view of man's place in nature.
- What is this view?
- The next 50 or so lines outline the response of men in 19th century Canada to the challenge of building a nation.
- What are these challenges?
- What are the images of transportation and the role of technology?

Towards the Last Spike

- What does MacDonald's dream reveal?
- What are his concerns?
- Man vs nature? Man vs Man?
- Take 5 minutes.

Towards the Last Spike

- Why and how is British Columbia characterized as a “lady?”
- What is the “proposal?”

Towards the Last Spike

- Work with the 2-3 classmates near you.
- How is nature depicted in
- NUMBER ONE
- NUMBER TWO
- NUMBER THREE

- HOW IS NATURE OVERCOME?