

Eponymous Hero

Do you know what an 'eponymous hero' is?

An eponymous hero is someone who gives their name to the title of the work in which they appear: Richard III is therefore an eponymous hero.

1. Which other characters do you know who are eponymous heroes? Look at the box below to get you started. Remember that eponymous heroes do not have to be Shakespearean characters (although there are a few): there are films, cartoons and novels which all have eponymous heroes.
2. How many female eponymous heroes do you have and how many male ones? Do you have any that are animals?
3. What characteristics does each of these characters have? You could start by listing some of Richard III's personality traits to get you started.
4. Do the characters you have thought of solely have good or bad 'qualities'?
5. Do the male and female eponymous heroes have different characteristics? What might this tell you about the way that writers portray men and women?
6. Is there any other way you can categorise the eponymous heroes? Do all the Shakespearean characters have similar characteristics for example? Why might this be? (It is not good enough to write that Shakespeare ran out of ideas!)

A list of eponymous heroes to get you started

Can you add to this list?

Richard III	Spiderman	Lassie	Macbeth
King Kong	Hamlet	Shrek	Batman
	Black Adder	Pollyanna	Anne of Green Gables
Jane Eyre	Emma	Erin Brockovich	Dr Who