

# Ask Aristotle ... on Art!

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*Q: "How does Homer's Odyssey fit into the literary principles presented in your book Poetics?"*

**A: It would be classified as 'epic poetry,' one of the three chief forms of poetry that I laid out. But aside from that, I would need to know which principles in particular would like me to elaborate on? There are many and I don't have the time to go into detail on all of them. Please try to be more specific.**

**Your Friend in Reason,  
Aristotle**

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*Q: "How is a writer at the beginning of the 21st century to deal with the problems posed by Borges and the absurdists about the breakdown of the subject-object dialectic both in the written word and in real life?"*

**A: Ignore them. They are of no consequence and should have no influence what-so-ever on YOUR writing. How did a writer in the early part of the 20th century deal with James Joyce and other like him? She wrote *Atlas Shrugged*. Always remember that those irrationalists are insignificant and their existence will just make it easier for you to sell a book on the free market because you won't have any real competition to contend with.**

**Your Friend in Reason,  
Aristotle**

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*Q: "Ah, Aristotle, it is such a pleasure. I can't believe I finally have the chance to talk to you. Please forgive me while I present a question somewhat less than philosophy related; yet while it is perhaps a bit trivial, I'm sure you'll find it is a question you have asked yourself repeatedly over the past couple of months: How on Earth did the Los Angeles Kings beat the Detroit Red Wings in the NHL playoffs? I mean really, HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?"*

**A: Ah! Sports! The honorary 6th branch of philosophy!**

**I attribute it to an overall breakdown in their defensive game combined with a lack of physical play, including their refusal to challenge the puck by finishing hits along the boards. In addition, they did not capitalize on many opportunities to score by choosing to pass rather than shoot (I can't stress enough the importance of one-timers on the net). Overall, they just got complacent and too conservative. However, I cannot take anything away from L.A. either. They were very physical, played with much enthusiasm, and had**

**more desire to the point that they looked like they might be the giant killers who could go all the way (just look at how hard they played Colorado in the 2nd round).**

**Your Friend in Reason,  
Aristotle**