An epitome (literally “cut off from”) was originally the book in a series that summarized the other books (think of an index to a set of encyclopedias). It now means anything or anyone who perfectly summarizes some quality.

If you’re talking about a typical example of something, call it the epitome. The cartoon character Garfield is the epitome of the fat, lazy, food-obsessed cat.

Coming to us from Greek through Latin, epitome refers to something that is the ultimate representative of its class. Are you the epitome of the hard-working student or do you believe in study in moderation? Make sure you pronounce epitome with the accent on the second syllable (uh-PIH-tuh-mee).

**DEFINITIONS AND USAGE EXAMPLES**

**Pronunciation:** \uh-PIH-tuh-mee\  
- A standard or typical example; the best example.  
  - I hardly think I am the epitome of good citizenship, since I’m not even a registered voter.  
  - He is the epitome of goodness.  
  - Synonyms: image, paradigm, prototype  
- A brief abstract (as of an article or book).  
  - Synonyms: abstract, outline, precis, synopsis

**Directions:** Discuss the meaning of the word with your students, with special emphasis on any variations or nuances of the word specific to your discipline. Consider taking it a step further by using one or all of the following ideas as you involve students with the new vocabulary. **Remember to preview all content you intend to share with students. Not all items on the lists provided below are appropriate for all classes or age levels.**
**While the World Watched** by Carolyn Maull McKinstry

*While the World Watched* is a poignant and gripping eyewitness account of life in the Jim Crow South: from the bombings, riots, and assassinations to the historic marches and triumphs that characterized the Civil Rights movement.

On September 15, 1963, a Klan-planted bomb went off in the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Fourteen-year-old Carolyn Maull was just a few feet away when the bomb exploded, killing four of her friends in the girl’s restroom she had just exited. It was one of the seminal moments in the Civil Rights movement, a sad day in American history . . . and the turning point in a young girl’s life.

Here is an excerpt from her book:

> Along with most of the black community, I knew who Reverend Shuttlesworth was, and I thought he represented the very height of bravery. To test the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling to integrate the public schools, Shuttlesworth had driven to Birmingham’s Phillips High School with his two daughters in the car. He planned to enroll them in the all-white school. But white mobs were waiting for him. When he stepped out of his car, white men jumped him. On the evening news, I saw the men hitting and beating and kicking Reverend Shuttlesworth. At the time, I remember thinking, *Surely he knew a white mob was waiting for him at the entrance of Phillips High School that day. But he still drove to the school and got out of his car! Was he afraid of what might happen? Certainly he knew the mob might kill him and his daughters! How in the world did he prepare his mind and heart for that confrontation? What did he tell his daughters might happen? How did he prepare them to possibly meet their deaths?*

> I came to see Reverend Shuttlesworth as a minister and a man who was God-sent and who knew what was right. The truth pushed him to fight for the rights of all Birmingham’s black people. **To me, he was the epitome of courage.** Former mayor of Atlanta and U.S. ambassador Andrew Young once described Shuttlesworth as “fearless to the point of insanity.”
For Percy Jackson fans! Percy’s final battle begins!

*Blood of Olympus* (Heroes of Olympus 5) is the story of Greek and Roman demigods of the Agro 2.

As one reviewer said of this book, “Odysseus and Penelope---the epitome of a perfect marriage!”

- Consider a quick-write and brief discussion of what qualities a perfect marriage would have with your students.
- Then ask them to list the qualities of Odysseus and Penelope’s marriage.
- Lastly, have students compare the two and discuss whether the reviewer was being sincere or sarcastic in his or her comment.

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“Movement Weighs Whether Donald Trump Is Their Cup of Tea”

Taylor Budowich, of Tea Party Express, said voters are interested more in what Mr. Trump and the rest of the field have for solutions to the nation’s problems.

“He has branded himself as the epitome of the outsider. That is one of his central themes, and it is central in capturing that [voter] frustration with the political class. But then you have to lay out your plan and platform and be serious about it,” Mr. Budowich said.
Franz Liszt by James Huneker

He is the epitome of the orchestra and in a tonal duel with the orchestra he has never been worsted.

Huneker, James

Consider discussing this quote about Franz Liszt from his biography written by James Huneker.

To enhance your discussion, consider using one or both of the following links:

Hungarian Rhapsody No.2 (Orchestra version)

Bugs Bunny conducting Friska, from Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2

Jacqueline Kennedy was the epitome of dignity amid unspeakable pain in the days following her husband’s assassination in Dallas in 1963.

And now, an Oscar-winning actress [Natalie Portman] has been tapped to relive that historic time in a new movie about the woman who still enchants the nation.
“Tree Houses: Are Wooden Skyscrapers the Future of Tall Buildings?”

The Guardian 7 July 2015

‘Timber towers’ might conjure up images of flammable, Jenga-like structures, but they could represent the safe and eco-friendly future of construction . . .

The world is in the midst of a tall building boom, with more skyscrapers being built now than ever before. From the outside, these towers present the epitome of the modern city, combining weird and wonderful forms with seemingly endless curtain-wall glazing. But scratch below the surface and you find essentially the same steel or concrete structure that supported the first skyscrapers in 19th century New York and Chicago.

However, this could be set to change through the reinvention of one of our oldest construction materials – timber.
“Six Million Dollar Man's Bionic Eye Becomes Reality”

For those of us old enough to remember television in the ‘70s, the epitome of cool was the Six Million Dollar Man, Col. Steve Austin and his bionic enhancements. But what was once the purview of science-fiction is inching closer to becoming an everyday reality, as optics specialist Eric Tremblay unveiled a unique contact lens that provides the user with telescopic vision. The lens was revealed earlier this year at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in San Jose, California.

The latest version of the telescopic contact lens, compared to a quarter.
Click on the photo to link to the article.

A little history tidbit:
The crash in the opening sequence of the Six Million Dollar Man is a real crash of the M2F2 lifting body in May of 1967. In the show, the crash nearly kills astronaut Steve Austin who is rebuilt for $6 million dollars (about $32 million today!) and becomes a cyborg. In reality, Bruce Peterson walked away from the crash.

For more background on the M2F2 and the crash that didn’t kill Bruce Peterson, check out this article on Discovery News Space:
http://news.discovery.com/space/histo...
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lAwde1LwZdI

Click on the picture to link to the opening sequence of the T.V. Show.
“Galaxy S6 Failure Is Dragging Down Samsung's Profits”

Forbes 7 JULY 2015

The Galaxy S6 is a perfectly competent flagship, but it is the epitome of Samsung's strategy of delivering a small step forward each year. Arguably the biggest talking points on the S6 were around the features removed since the Galaxy S5 (MicroSD support, removable battery, and waterproofing). The handset was still expected to lead the avalanche of sales that were expected after the flagship product launch.

Not only were those sales weaker than Samsung’s own estimates, the iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus continued to perform strongly three quarters after Tim Cook’s handsets had been put on sale. There wasn’t enough demand for a ‘same again’ Android handset, and that has shown in sales of the S6.

“How Silicon Valley Suddenly Fell in Love with Cars”

Time: Tech 24 March 2015

Detroit, with its combustion engines and metallic gears, was the epitome of an analog era that Silicon Valley displaced. The car was an anachronism, however beloved. No longer. Google has been working on self-driving cars for a number of years. Uber has started looking into them as well. Now, according to the ever-churning Apple rumor mill, the Cupertino giant is working on a stealth car project. For tech companies, the automobile has gone from a super-sized docket to park a smartphone while you drive to a gadget that can be reimagined from the ground up with digital technology.

The sudden shift is happening for a few reasons. (Click on the photo to read more.)