The Iliad: Catalogue of Ships (Book II)

Book II is the reader’s first glimpse into one of those epic digressions: the catalogue of ships. It’s not just a list of ships and a tag from whence they came; it’s a catalogue presented in epic language. You get details of genealogy (some details we don’t really want to know), cool epithets, personality characteristics, background on the cities, etc. Of course, you’ve probably guessed what your assignment is. You get to create your own epic catalogue. Now, since you don’t have ships about, you should catalogue things that you do have: the books in your room, your family, the trees in your yard, the clothes on your floor, the assignments you’ve missed, etc. Whatever you choose to catalogue, you must use epic language (if you can say it simply, then simply avoid saying it that way). All is grand, all is associated with epicness, all things have a history, etc. You could go on and on (like Homer), but you only need to create a one-page catalogue (double-spaced).

For example, the things on my desk:

And the coffee mug, that which contains life, stood there, in the center, alone. For it was within the nature of the coffee mug, that which contains life, to be alone, as his father had been alone, and his father before him (except in the necessary moment when a female coffee mug was present to procreate). Alone, but not without company stood that which contains life, for far off the left flank of said mug, rested the vase of flowers. Not any flowers were they, for they had been given by a humble servant. They wept, drooping above their dusty water. Death clung to their petals as the curling arm of decay embraced them.