



The Hero's Journey

A Literacy Study

Name: _____



What is a hero? What makes a hero a hero? What characteristics do you associate with heroes? Brainstorm some of your thoughts about what characteristics heroes' exhibit.





When writing a story with a hero involved – the hero has to go through a process. The process is:

An Unusual birth or childhood

Often times there are unusual circumstances surrounding the birth of a hero. The hero is frequently born to royalty or has a god or goddess as one of his or her parents. The hero is sometimes in danger at birth and needs to be hidden or disguised.

The Call to Adventure

Heroes can begin their journeys in a number of different ways, but usually a traumatic event occurs that leads to the hero wanting or needing to leave home. When the a hero is called to leave home, he or she may refuse to leave at first, only to be convinced, tricked, or forced into leaving later. In other cases, the hero leaves willingly. Still other times, the hero begins the journey on accident.

Supernatural Healer

The hero is usually aided by someone, often old and wise, with magical and mystical power. This figure serves as a guide and mentor as the hero embarks into a new world and faces challenges to his or her life and character.

Talisman or Special Weapon

The hero often has a weapon or protective device given to him or her that will be useful on the journey. The supernatural helper may be the one to give the hero the weapon or to tell him or her about it.

Crossing the Threshold

At some point, the hero leaves the familiar, safe world of childhood and home and enters fully into the new world of the journey.

Trials

The hero has to succeed at a series of trials that challenge and build his or her moral strength and character. Typically, one of these trials involves a descent into the underworld where the hero may experience a wound that cannot be healed.

Achievement of Goal

Upon successful completion of the trials, the hero achieves the ultimate goal of the journey. The goal may be an object, such as the Holy Grail.

Reconciliation with Father figure / Gets the relationship

If a division or conflict with the hero's father or father-figure is part of the hero's journey, reconciliation or healing with the father occurs as part of the hero's journey.

Returning Home

The hero, sometimes willingly and sometimes unwillingly, again crosses the threshold and returns home. He or she brings new wisdom and important cultural values back to the community upon return.

Let's think about Harry Potter. Fill in each of the process thinking of the Harry Potter series.



HARRY POTTER SERIES

Unusual Birth or Childhood	
The Call to Adventure	
Supernatural Healer	
Special Weapon	
Crossing the Threshold	
Trials	
Achievement of Goal	
Reconciliation or Relationship	
Returning Home	



**We are going to look at 2 scripts and films involving heroes.
SHREK & THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE and then;
You will write your own Hero Story.**

**FIRST WE WILL LOOK AT
SHREK then SORCERERS APPRENTICE**

Your tasks:

1. Read SHREK script
2. Complete the Process Worksheet
3. Watch the Film
4. Complete a film review
5. Complete a Hero & Villain Profile

6. Read SORCERERS APPRENTICE script
7. Complete the Process Worksheet
8. Watch the Film
9. Complete a film review
10. Complete a Hero & Villain Profile

Then;

Develop your own story using

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/herosjourney/>



SHREK

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SORCERERS APPRENTICE

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Model for Writing a Film Review

	Phrases to start you off...
<p><u>Introduction</u> Begin with a catchy, imaginative phrase or scene description from the film which sums up one of its central ideas. Introduce the name of the film, director and story source, as well as your thesis (opinion) about the film's worth.</p> <p><i>What genre is the film? What are its special points of interest? Were any awards given to this film (eg. best actress/special effects etc.)?</i></p>	<p>The camera pans...and so begins one of the most beautiful films...</p> <p>The film, based on a true story, is...</p> <p>Directed by...this film is notable for...</p> <p>Awarded...this film is...</p>
<p><u>Plot</u> Briefly outline the story of the film in about five or six lines.</p> <p><i>Is the plot important, entertaining or realistic? How is the story structured? Does it move forwards steadily in time, or does it use flashbacks? Was this effective?</i></p>	<p>Told through the eyes of...this film tells the classic story of...</p> <p>An outstanding film, ...describes the events of...</p> <p>Set in...this is a most involving film...</p>
<p><u>Screenplay</u> Consider the characters of the film: how do the actors present these characters?</p> <p><i>Are the characters realistic and believable? Are they meant to be? Does the film emphasise character or is it more concerned with action or special effects? How successful is the casting of the characters and their performances? Can you detect any faults in the acting? (eg over-acting) In what other films have the lead actors appeared? Are they a versatile actor?</i></p>	<p>At the centre of the story is...</p> <p>The character of...is drawn as...is a sensitive portrayal of...</p> <p>A depth of character is ignored in favour of an action-packed... ...plays an unforgettable/believable... ...gives a strong/flawless performance... ...is over-acted, causing the viewer to devalue the theme of... Demi Moore (Ghost, Indecent Proposal) is...in her role as...</p>
<p><u>Production details</u> How the production details develop the themes and characters of the film.</p> <p>Opening & Closing Scenes – <i>What impact do they have?</i> Cinematography – <i>How are colour and lighting used to promote emotional effects or to appeal to the viewer?</i> Editing – <i>Has the editing achieved the right pace and put the shots together in the most effective way?</i> Sound effects & Music – <i>Consider the quality and imaginative use of dialogue, music and other sound effects.</i> Special effects – <i>What were they? Were they realistic?</i> Costuming – <i>Consider suitability and authenticity.</i> Use of Props & Symbols – <i>Did they add to the theme?</i></p>	
<p><u>Theme</u> Identify the main conflicts and look at the way they are introduced and built up.</p> <p><i>What is the central theme of this film? Does the film convey a useful message for the viewer, or is it purely entertaining?</i></p>	<p>The film explores the theme of...</p> <p>Through the portrayal of the lives of...the film reminds us... ...is a compelling study/ drama of... ...a film that challenges us to...</p>
<p><u>Conclusion</u> <i>What age group/audience is the film designed for? How would you rate the film (from one to four stars)? Which part of the film was most striking? Why? Suggest any changes that you would make to the character, settings, plot, cinematography or music to improve the overall effect of the film. Compare this film with others of the same genre/type. How does it rate?</i></p>	<p>This film will appeal to...</p> <p>Many people will feel that....by...is a sensitive drama about...</p> <p>Beautifully shot, superbly acted...is a great film for many reasons. Not the least of these is...</p>



Character Profile

COMPLETE THIS IN YOUR READING BOOKS

Basic Statistics

Name:

Age:

Nationality:

Socioeconomic Level as a child:

Socioeconomic Level as an adult:

Hometown:

Current Residence:

Occupation:

Income:

Talents/Skills:

Salary:

Birth order:

Siblings (describe relationship):

Spouse (describe relationship):

Children (describe relationship):

Grandparents (describe relationship):

Grandchildren (describe relationship):

Significant Others (describe relationship):

Relationship skills:

Physical Characteristics:

Height:

Weight:

Race:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Glasses or contact lenses?

Skin color:

Shape of Face:

Distinguishing features:

How does he/she dress?

Mannerisms:

Habits: (smoking, drinking etc.)

Health:

Hobbies:

Favorite Sayings:

Speech patterns:

Disabilities:

Style (Elegant, shabby etc.):

Greatest flaw:

Best quality:



Intellectual/Mental/Personality Attributes and Attitudes

Educational Background:

Intelligence Level:

Any Mental Illnesses?

Learning Experiences:

Character's short-term goals in life:

Character's long-term goals in life:

How does Character see himself/herself?

How does Character believe he/she is perceived by others?

How self-confident is the character?

Does the character seem ruled by emotion or logic or some combination thereof?

What would most embarrass this character?

Emotional Characteristics

Strengths/Weaknesses:

Introvert or Extrovert?

How does the character deal with anger?

With sadness?

With conflict?

With change?

With loss?

What does the character want out of life?

What would the character like to change in his/her life?

What motivates this character?

What frightens this character?

What makes this character happy?

Is the character judgmental of others?

Is the character generous or stingy?

Is the character generally polite or rude?

Spiritual Characteristics

Does the character believe in God?

What are the character's spiritual beliefs?

Is religion or spirituality a part of this character's life?

If so, what role does it play?

How the Character is Involved in the Story

Character's role in the novel (main character? hero? heroine? Romantic interest? etc.):

Scene where character first appears:

Relationships with other characters: