

THE ARCHETYPAL HERO - COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

The archetypal hero appears in all cultures and mythologies around the world. Carl Jung and Joseph Campbell theorize that heroes are an expression of our personal and collective unconscious (the collective unconscious would be things that all people automatically know and understand and therefore explains why everyone in the world associates “white” with purity and “black” with evil, chaos, and the unknown). There are several characteristics that heroes share. Here are some. Luke Skywalker has already been filled in to show how this works.

Characteristic	Luke Skywalker	Other Hero:	Other Hero:	Other Hero:
Unusual circumstances of birth; sometimes in danger or born into royalty	<i>Unknown son of Darth vader, kept hidden</i>			
Leaves family or land and lives with others	<i>Leaves Tatooine to learn with Ben Kenobi</i>			
An event, sometimes traumatic, leads to adventure or quest	<i>The death of his uncle and aunt</i>			
Hero has a special weapon only he can wield	<i>Lightsaber and the force</i>			
Hero always has supernatural help	<i>Ben Kenobi's ghost, force</i>			
The Hero must prove himself many times while on adventure	<i>Escape & destroy Death Star - learn from Yoda</i>			
The Journey and the Unhealable Wound	<i>Inner wound - Darth vader is father</i>			
Hero experiences atonement with the father	<i>Darth vader becomes good to save his son</i>			
When the hero dies, he is rewarded spiritually	<i>Will probably become Jedi ghost</i>			