

Name _____ Hour _____ Date _____

THE HERO'S JOURNEY - COMMON CHARACTERISTICS

The hero's journey 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). Most stories follow Campbell's theory of the Hero's Journey. The journey is a metaphor for the process that underlies all growth, learning, and self discovery. It often represents the life-long journey that all people (especially heroes, in short) go through. There are several characteristics that all heroes' journeys contain. Use the following chart to document the 12 steps of the hero's journey as depicted in your chosen story.

Film: _____

Stage in the Hero's Journey	Film Component
<p style="text-align: center;">Ordinary World</p> <p>The hero's normal world before the story begins</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Call to Adventure</p> <p>The hero is presented with a problem, challenge or adventure to undertake</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Refusal of the Call</p> <p>The hero refuses the challenge or journey, usually out of fear</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Meeting with the Mentor</p> <p>The hero meets a mentor to gain confidence, advice or training to face the adventure</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Crossing the First Threshold</p> <p>The hero crosses the gateway that separates the ordinary world from the special world</p>	

<p>Tests, Allies, Enemies The hero faces tests, meets allies, confronts enemies & learn the rules of the Special World.</p>	
<p>Approach The hero has hit setbacks during tests & may need to reorganize his helpers or rekindle morale with mentor's rally cry. Stakes heightened.</p>	
<p>Ordeal The biggest life or death crisis – the hero faces his greatest fear & only through “death” can the hero be “reborn” experiencing even greater powers to see the journey to the end.</p>	
<p>Reward The hero has survived death, overcome his greatest fear and now earns the reward he sought.</p>	
<p>The Road Back The hero must recommit to completing the journey & travel the road back to the Ordinary World. The dramatic question is asked again.</p>	
<p>Resurrection Hero faces most dangerous meeting with death – this shows the hero can apply all the wisdom he's brought back to the Ordinary World</p>	
<p>Return with Elixir The hero returns from the journey with the “elixir”, so everyone in the world can use to heal physical or emotional wounds.</p>	

Analyzing Archetypes in the Film

Archetype	Who plays this Archetype in the Film? How do you know?
<p>The Hero</p> <p>Usually the main character – a person who needs to learn something in the story.</p>	
<p>Mentor</p> <p>A wise person or animal who provides guidance to the hero – usually giving him magical gifts or advice for the journey ahead.</p>	
<p>Trickster</p> <p>The “wise-fool” – someone who uses tricks and jokes to guide the hero</p>	
<p>Shadow</p> <p>Represents our darkest desire, untapped resources, or rejected qualities (Darth Vader)</p>	
<p>Shapeshifter</p> <p>A character who “changes appearance” to disrupt the adventure.</p>	
<p>Herald</p> <p>Issues challenges and announces coming of significant change – gets the story rolling.</p>	
<p>Threshold Guardian</p> <p>Protects the special world and its secrets from the hero – provides tests for hero to prove worth.</p>	