



Mythological Archetypes

Exploring Archetypal Characters Found in Mythology

Key Words

Mythology – a popular belief or tradition that has grown up around something or someone; legend

Archetype - the original pattern or model; a perfect example

Archetypal = Typical

Archetypes

Archetype	Description	Dramatic Function
Hero	<p>Someone willing to sacrifice his own needs for the needs of others</p> <p>Types of hero:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <u>willing hero</u> – seeks adventure➤ <u>unwilling hero</u> – pushed into adventure➤ <u>anti-hero</u> – cynical or tragic hero	<p>Gives the audience someone to identify with and learn through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Has qualities we recognize in ourselves➤ Acquires knowledge and wisdom➤ Drives the story forward

Archetypes

Archetype	Description	Dramatic Function
Shadow	<p>Forces representing the dark aspects of something</p> <p><u>Must either be:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Killed➤ Disempowered or weakened➤ Transformed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Challenge the hero and give him/her a worthy opponent on his/her journey➤ Create conflict and bring out the best in the hero

Archetypes

Archetype	Description	Dramatic Function
Mentor	<p>A positive figure who usually helps or trains the hero</p> <p>Types of mentor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ <u>helpful mentor</u> – aids the hero on his/her journey➤ <u>dark mentor</u> – lures the hero into danger➤ <u>fallen mentor</u> – helping the hero takes the mentor on their own journey	<p>Teaches the hero or gives the hero gifts that must be earned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ gifts or advice given at the end of training or test➤ may function as hero's conscience➤ motivates the hero

Archetypes

Archetype	Description	Dramatic Function
Threshold Guardian (Gate-keepers)	Obstacles that the hero encounters on the journey	Guardians test the hero. If tests are passed, the hero gains new powers, usually those of the guardian.

Archetypes

Archetype	Description	Dramatic Function
Herald	<p>Issues challenges or announces significant change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ May be an inner voice or memory.<li>➤ Represents the need for change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Offers motivation and challenges the hero<li>➤ Alerts the hero that change is coming<li>➤ Quite often starts hero on his/her journey

Mythic Hero Project



Create your own mythic hero. You will need the following information:

- Hero – special abilities, mission, what kind (willing / unwilling / anti-hero)
- Shadow – special abilities, mission
- Mentor – what is his/her relationship with her, how does he/she help hero
- Herald – who delivers news to her, what news is delivered
- Gatekeepers (2) – who/what blocks the hero from his/her goal, what power does the hero get by overcoming the gatekeeper