

Heroism is a word that interrogates so many other words into it. Most commonly people associate heroism with bravery, character, talent, insightful, intelligence, and so much more. It has so many different meanings and points of view it is hard to define. It is a combination of all what is good to a person in one single word; a powerful, intriguing, and magical word. Heroism, like most powerful words, is taken and formed from action. The act of inspiration and admiration, the act of being insightful, daring, overcoming, and boldness, and the act of sacrifice, loyalty, leadership, and, probably the most important trait of a hero, positiveness.

Being a hero doesn't mean being a superior being who saves the world time and time again. A hero is simply someone who inspired someone, who had a long-lasting effect and impression on someone. It is someone who is admired, even if just by one person; if someone admires you, you are a hero. Anne Frank once said, "Whoever is happy will make others happy too." This sums up the meaning of hero in eight words. Anne Frank didn't do anything spectacular, every single Jewish person was going through what she was going through. She was literally shelled up in her basement, then sent to a concentration camp where she died. So if Anne Frank wasn't famous and didn't do anything spectacular for her time why is she considered a hero? The answer is simple; she inspires people everyday with her obstacles and the way she dealt with them. People admire her because she saw the world in such a unique way. Bethany Hamilton is also a great hero that can be admired by all. "Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you." (Bethany Hamilton) She is an amazing example of never giving up. We all struggle with something and she inspires us to keep going. We admire her strength. Bethany Hamilton lost her arm doing something she loved. Instead of stopping she just started again. That is why she is a hero. One hero who is practically unheard of is Samantha Abel. On top of her autobiography (called My Thirteenth Winter) she actually has the words "Sometimes a challenge can be an inspiration." Samantha has been through many situation and obstacles that seemed hopeless. She had intense struggles with so many things like: a learning disability that the school refused to acknowledge, depression, and anxiety. Yet she pulled through. Then she wrote her book; a book full of inspiration and hope. A book that showed her heroism and let us admire her for that. All three of these girls are inspiring and can be admired for simply getting through the day no matter how hard it is.

Insightfulness, boldness, being daring, and overcoming are all important things for a hero to have. One good example would be Annabeth Chase from Percy Jackson and Odysseus from The Odyssey. The both were insightful enough to plan ahead. Odysseus thought ahead enough into the future to call himself "Nobody". Annabeth used this knowledge and also called herself "Nobody" to enrage the cyclops, making him reckless and driven by anger. Their common goal involved being daring and bold. They overcame the obstacle of escaping the cyclops. A bad example would be Odessy's men and Grover and Clarisse. They didn't plan ahead at all. This resulted in Odysseus' men in being eaten. They did not overcome their challenge of the cyclops. Grover and Clarisse ended up being engaged to cyclops and would have been stuck there forever if it had not been for Annabeth. Mulan is another good example; she was insightful enough to use the rocket to cause an avalanche. She was daring and bold enough to disobey

her commander for the greater good. In the end she overcame the challenge better than most thought was possible. While Mulan is a great hero, her cricket is a worthless one. He often hides behind Mulan and doesn't try to overcome the obstacle he faces. Another comparison to a hero and non-hero would be between Hå from Inside Out and Back Again and her fellow students. This girl who was an immigrant to the U.S. had no clue about our culture, but she managed to work her way through everyday. Her fellow students teased her and mocked her. She is a hero. Heroes are the wise who take risk; insightful darers. The ones who overcome with boldness.

Positiveness, leadership, sacrifice, and loyalty are also prospects of heroism. Princess Pea from The Tale of Despereaux has all of those aspects. She is unbelievably sympathetic and understanding. She is loyal to her subjects and shows great leadership skills. As does Ana. She sacrifices her time to her family, even though she is in pain and dying. She never disappoints her family and is loyal to supporting their needs. She leads them into thinking positively. Positiveness is the most strong, powerful, and important part of heroism. Thinking happy thoughts leads to loyalty, inspiration, being admired, leadership, and every other part of heroism. Thinking positively is the heart of heroism. The poem A Man is also a perfect example of being positive and being someone who can be admired, who could be a leader, and a great friend. He saw the glass as half full even though he had to sacrifice his arm. Character is important and positiveness is the root of that. Heroes need to have leadership skills, a sense of faithfulness and loyalty. They need to be able to sacrifice.

"You can't change a person, but you can be the reason someone changed," (Spongebob) is a quote that accurately conveys heroism. Heroism when you inspire someone to change for the better or inspire them to see their own potential. Most people say that a hero is fearless. It depends on how you look at fearlessness for it to be right or not. Taylor Swift's vision of fearlessness captures the true essence of a hero. "To me, Fearless is not the absence of fear. It's not being completely unafraid. To me, Fearless is having fears. Fearless is having doubts. Lots of them. To me, Fearless is living in spite of those things that scare you to death." Heroism is the realization that heroism is a choice, a path, and a journey and acting on that. It's seeing that being heroic is simple, but not easy. It is the choice of looking at the world in a different, positive, and outgoing way. The choice of smiling even if your world is falling apart. Every single person has the potential to being a hero; they just have to choose to unlock it.