

An Introduction that Earned a Big Fat D

There have been many heroes throughout history. They accept the call to action and go through the most difficult trials to train and prepare themselves for the difficulties they will face ahead. A powerful hero is one who accepts his call to adventure and faces many trials; both Amir from *the Kite Runner* and Bruce Wayne from *The Batman Trilogy* take these two significant steps, showing that a compelling hero will accept the call no matter what trials that they may face, known and unknown.

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On the surface, heroes appear perfect. They defeat monsters with their brawny arms, rescue princesses with their movie star looks, and earn godlike power and respect. Underneath this facade of glory, however, heroes suffer flaws, insecurities, and fears. Even Bruce Wayne from *Batman Begins* is crippled by fear throughout much of his youth, and in the novel *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini the main character, Amir, finds himself paralyzed by guilt. Two of the most important steps in a hero's journey involve facing these fears by entering the belly of the whale and crossing the threshold. Entering the belly of the whale, according to Joseph Campbell, is essential because a hero must face their deepest and darkest fears to continue on his journey. Similarly, when a hero crosses the threshold he leaves the familiar world and journeys to an unfamiliar place, often to restore justice. A powerful hero must enter the belly of the whale and cross the threshold; Bruce Wayne from *Batman* and Amir from *The Kite Runner* must complete these tasks because a hero must learn to face threats and still prevail.