

Name: _____

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THE HERO'S JOURNEY IN FILM AND LITERATURE

It was Joseph Campbell who, in the 1940's, first brought to the public's attention the Mythic and Archetypal principles embedded in the structure of stories. In his book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, Campbell identified the underlying patterns in myths, stories, and the spiritual traditions. In doing so, Campbell created a standardized language that made it possible to uncover and communicate the underlying archetypal structure of these narrative traditions. Later, in the book *The Writer's Journey*, Christopher Vogler took Campbell's work to the next step. Vogler expanded on the language of the Hero's Journey, developing it into a detailed framework for analyzing both plot and character development in fiction, and into a guideline for developing satisfying and successful stories. Campbell's and Vogler's theory about the "Hero's Journey" can easily be applied to films and novels.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Watch or recall a film you have seen or refer to a book you have read, and apply the steps of the Hero's Journey to the "hero" (protagonist) in the film. The hero's journey is evident in the movie *Star Wars* and is used below as an example. Use the third column to apply the steps of the hero's journey to a film or novel of your choice. Write the specific action or event from the film or novel that supports each of the stages.

The Hero's Journey	<i>Star Wars</i>	<i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i>
1. The Ordinary World The hero is in their normal world but feels incomplete or unsatisfied.	Restless teenager Luke Skywalker is bored with life on the remote farm where he lives with his uncle and aunt. His parents are presumed dead and he feels unfulfilled.	
2. The Call to Adventure The catalyst that pushes the hero out of his/her ordinary world.	Luke accidentally finds Leia's desperate plea for help, addressed to Obi-Wan-Kenobi and stored in the droid R2D2.	
3. Refusal of the Call The hero resists the call, adding tension and conflict.	Luke seeks out Obi-Wan but doesn't dare take up the challenge saying that his uncle and aunt need him.	
4. Meeting the Mentor The mentor encourages the hero and provides guidance and support.	Luke finally puts himself in the hands of Obi-Wan and begins to learn the ways of the force.	
5. Crossing the Threshold The first moment of departure from the ordinary world, a step filled with emotion.	Luke takes up the challenge when Imperial troops kill his uncle and aunt.	

6. Tests, Allies, and Enemies A series of trials, giving insight into what lies ahead. The strengths of his companions are shown.	Luke and Obi-Wan head for a spaceport bar, meet up with Han Solo and the Wookie and make a bitter enemy of Jabba the Hut.	
7. Approach to the Inmost Cave The hero is ready for the supreme ordeal. This is the start of the action.	Luke and his allies have a series of adventures as they move toward the place where Leia is held prisoner.	
8. The Ordeal The hero faces his final fear in a showdown with his nemesis.	The ordeal is made up of a series of adventures that culminates in the attempt to break the princess out of the Death Star.	
9. The Reward The hero has defeated his nemesis and claims his rightful prize.	Luke and his companions escape with the princess and the information needed to destroy the death star but not without the sacrifice of Obi-Wan.	
10. The Road Back The consequences of the hero's actions become clear and any unresolved issues reappear.	The worst is not yet over. The Death Star, moving within a range of the rebel base, still has to be destroyed.	
11. The Resurrection An event that changes the hero in some way and allows a return to his ordinary world.	Luke trusts the Force and destroys the Death Star by sacrificing an old part of his personality, his dependence on machines.	
12. Return (with the elixir) Loose ends are tied up and the hero's journey is complete. If the hero does not have the elixir, the whole journey must be repeated.	Luke and his allies are decorated as heroes in front of a large crowd. Luke's elixir is his new self-knowledge and control of the force.	