Analyzing animated films with The Hero's Journey
The Hero's Journey was developed by Chris Vogler, based on the work of Joseph Campbell

Film:

Stage in the Hero's Inner	Film Component	AnalysisWhat do you think of this point in the film?
Journey		pome in the imm
The call to		
adventure, also		
known as the call		
to action, can		
take many forms.		
Itl is an		
interruption to		
the hero's daily		
life—a threat to		
his livelihood, his		
loved ones, or		
his community.		
Refusal of the		
Call Scared to		
leave the comfort		
of everything he		
knows, the hero		
second-guesses		
accepting the call		
to action. The		
task seems		
daunting, and the		
outcome is		
unknown		
Supernatural Aid		
After the hero		
has accepted the		
call to action, his		
guide or magical		
helper comes to		
him.		
Crossing the		
First Threshold		
This is exactly		
what it sounds		
like—the		
moment when		
the hero officially		
begins her		
journey		
Belly of the		
Whale This is the		
point of no		
return. After the		

F	
hero has crossed	
the first	
threshold, she	
enters the belly	
of the whale—or	
the first real	
obstacle of the	
journey	
Trials	
In the first step of	
the initiation	
stage, the	
protagonist	
undergoes a	
series of	
challenges and	
tests that will	
kickstart his	
transformation	
into the true hero	
he is meant to	
become. It is	
common for the	
hero to fail a few	
of these tests	
before ultimately	
overcoming all of	
them	
Approach to the	
Innermost Cave.	
Preparations are	
needed and	
might include	
maps, and	
reconnaissance	
to enter the cave.	
The Ordeal. This	
is the greatest	
fear and most	
difficult	
challenge.	
The hero	
overcame the	
greatest fear and	
challenge to earn	
the reward	
The Road Back.	
This stage is	
comprised of the	

hero recommitting to complete the	
journey and	
accept the road	
back to the	
ordinary world.	
The	
Resurrection. This can be the	
most dangerous	
life-and-death	
ordeal for the	
hero and is the	
climax of the	
story.	
Return with the	
Elixir. The final	
reward after the	
hero was	
resurrected,	
purified, and has	
returned to the	
ordinary world.	

Archetypes in the Film

Archetype	Who plays this Archetype in the	What do you think of this character?
The Hero Usually the main character – a person who needs to learn something in the story.	Film? How do you know?	
Mentor A wise person or animal who provides guidance to the hero – usually giving him magical gifts or advice for the journey ahead.		
Trickster The "wise-fool" – someone who uses tricks and		

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