

Ms. Lewis

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Theseus: Tracing the Epic Hero Cycle

Fill in according to the story, using specific examples from the packet.

The Epic Hero Cycle	Theseus
1. The main character is an epic hero. An epic hero is/has... A. larger than life (a legend or almost mythological figure in his society) B. favored by and/or descended from a god or a goddess C. a participant in a journey called a quest D. one who illustrates ideal personality and physical traits valued by his society E. strong, smart, and brave (physically and mentally) F. a personality or physical trait called an epic flaw that leads to his death or destruction	Theseus is an epic hero. A. He manages to defeat various creatures and thugs, such as: B. _____ favors him and he is descended from _____. C. His quest is to return home to Ithaca. D. The values and traits idealized by his society that he possesses are: E. He shows his strength when _____ He shows his intelligence when _____ He shows his bravery when _____ F. His epic flaw is _____, as shown when he _____.
2. The hero is charged with a quest. (Tell who gives him the quests, what it is, and what he must do to accomplish it.)	
3. The hero is tested to prove his worthiness of completing the quest and the worthiness of the quest itself.	Think of both the road to Athens and the labyrinth

4. There are numerous magical, mythical, and helpful creatures/characters and human companions. (Explain how and when they appear)	Mythical (gods): Magical (divine): Human companions/helpers:
5. The hero's travels take him to a supernatural world not usually visited by other people.	1. Labyrinth...
6. The hero almost gives up!	A moment of frustration or feeling as though he cannot accomplish what he set out to do:
7. A resurrection! (either a literal rebirth from being dead or some sort of figurative interpretation of this motif)	Consider his return to Athens.
8. Conclusion/ Resolution. The hero takes back his position of power and glory.	What does Theseus gain that was once denied to him?