

WHAT MAKES A HERO?

What do Harry Potter, Frodo and Odysseus all have in common with the heroes of ancient myths? What do you have in common with them all?

Trick Question really. They are all variants of the same hero. Joseph Campbell wrote a book called "The Hero With A Thousand Faces" in which he argued that there was a mono myth or one Hero's journey.

The Hero's journey is like a cycle. The journey starts and ends with the hero's ordinary world. But the Quest passes through an unfamiliar, special world with key events for the hero to confront along the way.

The conventional hero's journey.

1. Start with the **status quo**. The usual setting, a normal day, the usual issues and events for the hero.
2. **Call To Adventure**
3. **Assistance**. Hero sometimes needs help, usually from someone older or wiser or more experienced.
4. **Departure**. The hero leaves the ordinary world and into the unfamiliar world.
5. **Trials**. The hero faces, trials, confrontations, difficult moments
6. **Approach**. Time for the hero to face the biggest ordeal.
7. **Crisis**. The hero faces death, injury, a very dark moment.
8. **Reborn**. The hero seems to find some energy or power in that dark moment and feel renewed.
9. **Treasure**. The hero claims/wins/finds the treasure. This treasure could be special recognition, a new power, a new status
10. **Result**. The hero has a total victory or a partial victory with the monster, enemy or difficult scenario in retreat and diminished.
11. **Return**. The hero returns to the ordinary world.
12. **A New Life**. The quest has changed the hero. The hero has outgrown his old life.
13. **Resolution**. A lot of the difficulties that the hero faced start to feel more sorted, more resolved, less difficult than in the middle of all the trials and crisis moment.
14. **Status Quo**. A more elevated ordinariness than at the start. Nothing is quite the same again.

What does this pattern of heroism and heroic journey have to do with you, me and now?

Do you recognise some traits in what the NHS workers are doing? Traits in what the Key workers are doing?

Do you have anything in common with this journey?

Where are you up to in this journey? We are all on it.

We will be returning to school at some point soon. Is that the new life? Resolution? The Status quo for us?

I want you to study this hero's journey because it plots our life in lockdown, it plots our life normally. We all face downtimes and fun times, sad times and happy times, crisis moments and treasure.

We will meet in school soon better people, having grown in the experience. Just like the heroes, we will not return to the status quo the same. We will be wiser, stronger to face other difficult times.

Surely, if we can get through this, we can face other uncertain, special, trying times in the unfamiliar world called the future. The future of us at school. The future further afield after school.

Spot where you are on this journey. We are all on it. And then you can see that good times, better times, happier times are ahead.

"The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek" Joseph Campbell

See you in school soon!

Mr Noble