

# STAGES OF A HERO

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- I. THE HERO HAS AN UNUSUAL BIRTH.
  - A. MAY BE BORN TO ROYALTY
  - B. ONE PARENT MAY BE A GOD OR GODDESS
  - C. MAY BE IN DANGER AT TIME OF BIRTH AND NEED TO HIDDEN OR DISGUISED

EXAMPLES:

2. THE HERO IS INTRODUCED IN HIS ORDINARY WORLD.
  - A. SHOWS THE HERO'S MUNDANE LIFE/WORLD BEFORE HE BEGINS HIS ADVENTURE OR QUEST
  - B. CONTRASTS THE NEW ALIEN WORLD THAT THE HERO ENTERS AS A PART OF HIS QUEST

EXAMPLES:

3. THE HERO IS CALLED TO ADVENTURE.
  - A. THE HERO IS PRESENTED WITH A PROBLEM, CHALLENGE, OR ADVENTURE
  - B. AN EVENT OCCURS LEADING THE HERO TO WANT TO OR NEED TO LEAVE HOME

EXAMPLES:

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4. THE HERO IS RELUCTANT AT FIRST.
- A. FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN
  - B. THE HERO BALKS AND REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE

EXAMPLES:

5. THE HERO IS ENCOURAGED BY A WISE MENTOR.
- A. OLD MAN/WOMAN OR SUPERNATURAL BEING
  - B. SERVES AS GUIDE

EXAMPLES:

6. THE HERO RECEIVES A TALISMAN OR SPECIAL WEAPON.
- A. OFTEN GIVEN BY THE MENTOR OR THE MENTOR WILL TELL WHERE TO FIND IT

EXAMPLES:

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7. THE HERO CROSSES THE THRESHOLD.
- A. THE HERO BEGINS HIS ADVENTURE OR QUEST
  - B. THE HERO ENTERS THE WORLD OF THE STORY

EXAMPLES:

8. THE HERO FACES TRIALS.
- A. THE HERO'S MORAL STRENGTH AND CHARACTER ARE TESTED
  - A. HE MAY BE WOUNDED

EXAMPLES:

9. THE HERO REACHES THE INNERMOST CAVE.
- A. THE HERO REACHES A DANGEROUS PLACE, OFTEN DEEP UNDERGROUND
  - B. OFTEN THE OBJECT OF THE QUEST IS HIDDEN THERE
  - C. OFTEN HAS TO RETRIEVE A LOVED ONE OR FIGHT A MONSTER

EXAMPLES:

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10. THE HERO ENDURES THE SUPREME ORDEAL.
- A. THE HERO REACHES A VERY LOW POINT
  - B. HE IS ON THE VERGE OF DEATH
  - C. MAY APPEAR TO DIE AND BE REBORN

EXAMPLES:

11. THE HERO SEIZES THE SWORD.

- A. THE HERO TAKES POSSESSION OF THE TREASURE HE'S SEEKING
- B. TREASURE COULD BE SPECIAL WEAPON, LOVER, KNOWLEDGE, TOKEN, OR ELIXIR

EXAMPLES:

12. THE HERO BEGINS HIS RETURN.

- A. HERO IS CHASED BY VENGEFUL FORCES
- B. CHASE SCENE

EXAMPLES:

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## 13. THE HERO IS RECONCILED WITH A FATHER FIGURE.

EXAMPLES:

## 14. THE HERO IS RESURRECTED.

- A. THE HERO IS TRANSFORMED BY HIS EXPERIENCES
- B. THE HERO IS A NEW PERSON AS THE RESULT OF HIS EXPERIENCE
- C. BRINGS BACK NEW WISDOM

EXAMPLES:

## 15. THE HERO RETURNS HOME TO HIS ORDINARY WORLD.

- A. OFTEN BRINGING BACK THE OBJECT OF THE QUEST
- B. LESSON IS LEARNED

EXAMPLES:

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LUKE SKYWALKER IN STAR WARS

HARRY POTTER

KATNISS EVERDEEN IN THE HUNGER GAMES SERIES

PERCY JACKSON

FRODO IN THE LORD OF THE RINGS

BILBO BAGGINS IN THE HOBBIT

SIMBA IN THE LION KING

STITCH IN LILO AND STITCH

WOODY IN TOY STORY

ALADDIN

ARIEL IN THE LITTLE MERMAID

WILLIAM WALLACE IN BRAVEHEART

MULAN

PO IN KUNG FU PANDA

DOROTHY IN THE WIZARD OF OZ

WESTLEY IN THE PRINCESS BRIDE

EDMOND DANTES IN THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

MOSES

OPTIMUS PRIME IN TRANSFORMERS

MOWGLI IN JUNGLE BOOK

NEMO IN FINDING NEMO

FOREST GUMP

PINOCCHIO

BUDDY THE ELF

REMY THE RAT IN RATATOUILLE

SHREK

PRINCESS TIANA