

HEROES AND THE HERO'S JOURNEY

Introduction: A great way to incorporate world mythology into a regular English-Language Arts class is through a Hero's Journey unit. By studying the Hero's Journey and the associated archetypes, students gain a better understanding of storytelling patterns, examine their personal concept of a hero, and learn how heroes are a universal theme in literature. All the materials listed here are available on Mythologyteacher.com or appear in the *Reaching Olympus* textbook series.

Allotted Time: Numbers appearing to the left of assignment titles indicate the days of each unit. This unit consists of 25 planned days of instruction.

Resources: For a full list of resources used in this outline, see the list at the end of the document. Script-stories (Reader's Theater plays) listed here come from the *Reaching Olympus* series, available for purchase at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>.

Using Script-Stories in the Classroom: Each volume within the *Reaching Olympus* series contains a section that lists best practices for using script-stories (Reader's Theater) in the classroom.

Anticipatory Set: Each script-story in the *Reaching Olympus* series includes a series of anticipatory questions to get students engaged in the content of the story.

Assessment: Each script-story in the *Reaching Olympus* series contains five recall questions that can be used as a post-script-story quiz.

Heroes and the Hero's Journey: Unit Outline (25 Days)

1. **Writing Prompt:** What does a hero mean to you? What are three qualities that every hero has?
 - a. "Where I Find My Heroes" by Oliver Stone (article)
 - b. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
2. **"Christopher Reeve Remembered" (article)**
 - a. Discussion: What are some qualities of comic book heroes?
 - b. Discussion: What are some qualities of real-life heroes?
 - c. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
3. **"Comic Book Hero" assignment**
 - a. Analyze a comic book hero for his or her heroic qualities.
 - b. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
4. **Song Analysis**
 - a. "Superman" by Five for Fighting (music video)
 - b. "Holding Out for a Hero" by Bonnie Tyler (music video)
 - c. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
5. **"The Hall of Heroes" assignment**

- a. As a group determine what persons should be inducted into a museum called the Hall of Heroes.
 - b. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
6. **Stages of the Monomyth: "The Hero's Journey" (worksheet)**
 - a. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
7. **Watch "Introduction to the Hero's Journey" and "Glove and Boots: The Hero's Journey" (YouTube videos)**
 - a. "Finding the Hero's Journey" (worksheet)
 - b. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
8. **"Archetypes from Myth and Legend" (presentation)**
 - a. "Archetypes Worksheet" (worksheet)
 - b. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
9. **"The Tale of Perseus" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
10. **"The Winged Horse" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Available for download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
 - c. "Types of Heroes" (worksheet)
 - d. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/The-Hero's-Journey.php
11. **"Oedipus Rex" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
12. **The Hero's Journey Card Game**
 - a. Available for download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
 - b. Give students several days to work on designing an original Hero's Journey.
13. **"Beowulf: Part I" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Available for download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
14. **"Beowulf: Part II" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Available for download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
15. **"Sigurd the Dragonslayer" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
16. **"Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*
17. **"The Tale of Beaumains" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*
18. **"Princess Vasilissa and the Firebird" (script-story)**
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.

- b. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.html
- 19. "Momotaro" (script-story)
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Available for download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
- 20. "Urashima the Fisherman" (worksheet)
 - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
 - b. Source: www.mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.html
- 21. Play Hero's Journey Card Game
- 22. *Rocky* (film)
 - a. Discussion: What makes Rocky a hero?
 - b. Discussion: What are the stages of the Hero's Journey in Rocky's story?
- 23. *Rocky* (film)
- 24. *Rocky* (film)
- 25. *Rocky* (film)

Note: Films such as *The Fellowship of the Ring* and *Star Wars: A New Hope* also work well for analyzing the Hero's Journey.

Resources:

- Hamby, Zachary. Mythologyteacher.com. Hamby Publishing, 2010. Web. 26 February 2014.
- Hamby, Zachary. *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*. Dora, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2010. Print.
- Hamby, Zachary. *Reaching Valhalla*. Dora, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2012. Print.
- Hamby, Zachary. *The Road to Camelot*. Ava, MO: Hamby Publishing, 2015. Print.
- Rocky*. Dir. John G. Avildsen. United Artists, 1976. Film.

Note on Texts: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters* is alternately titled *Reaching Olympus: The Greek Myths, Vol. I*.