# Mythological/Archetypal Theory



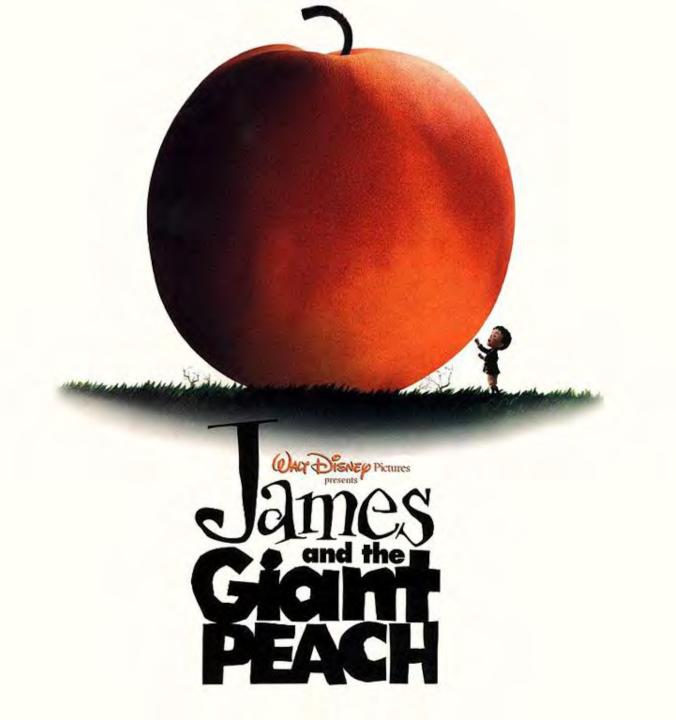
# **Question:**

#### What do the following stories have in common?

#### A LONG TIME AGO IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY ....







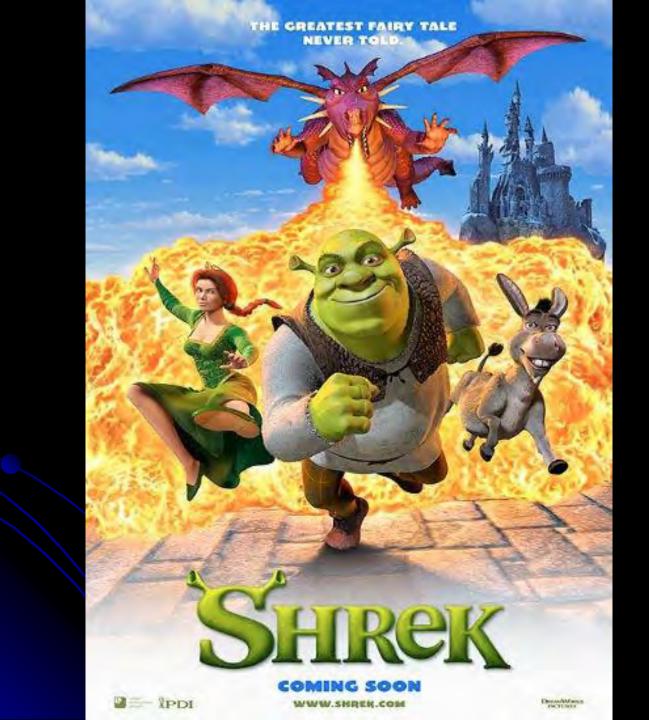






FEATURING AN ALL-NEW SONG

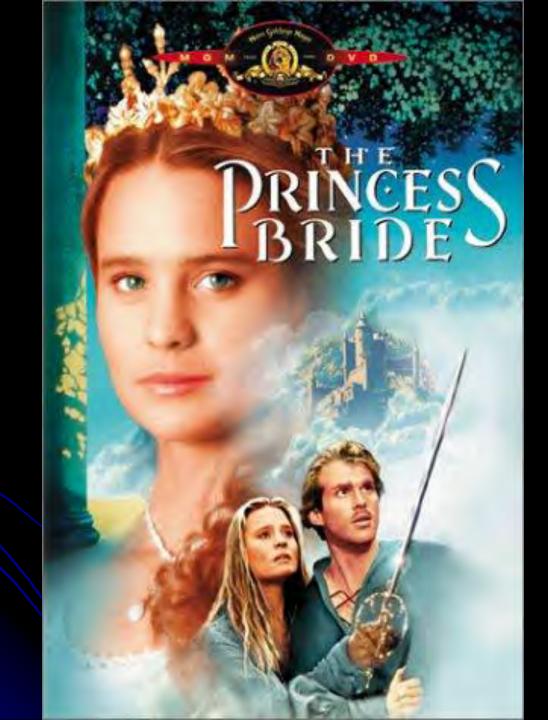




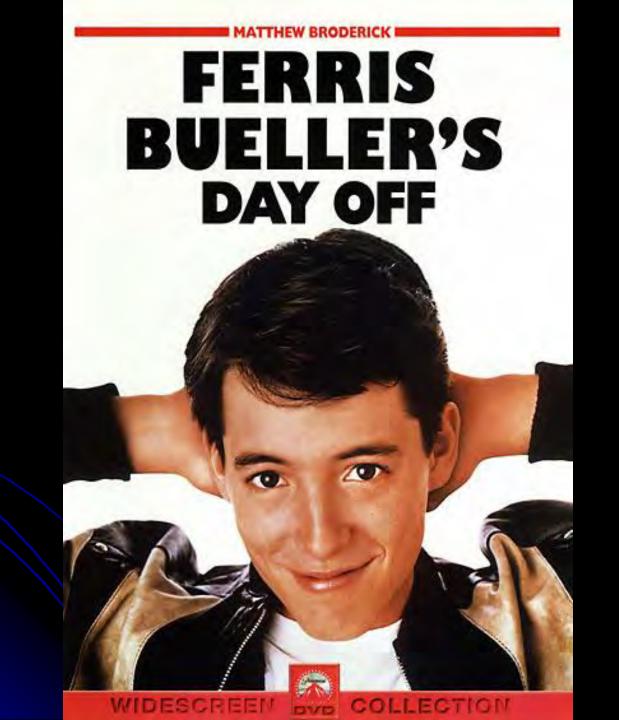


THE LION. THE WITCH ZEP THE WARDRODE IN TURNTERS DROMBER 9, 2005

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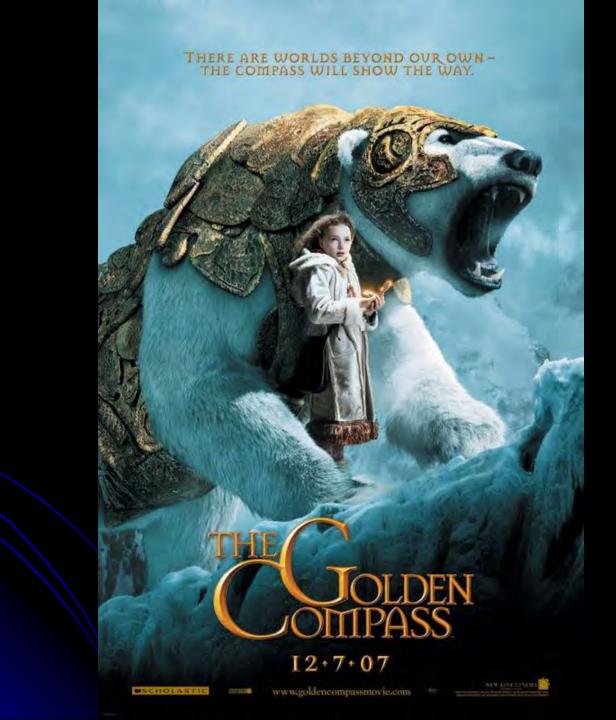
NOW IN THEATERS

DON'T LEAVE EARTH WITHOUT IT

4









NOVEMBER 16

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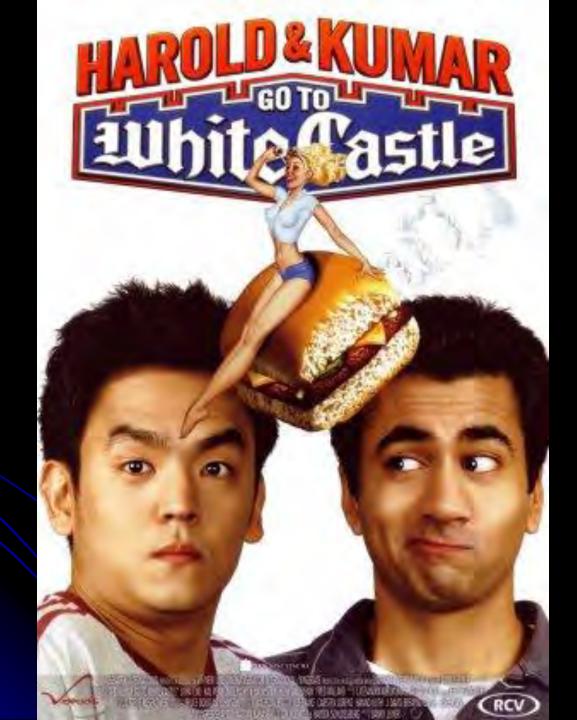


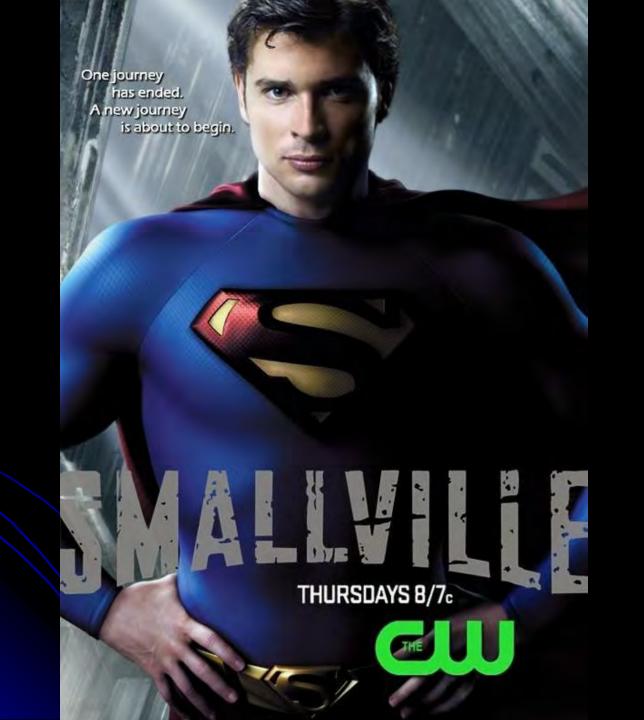
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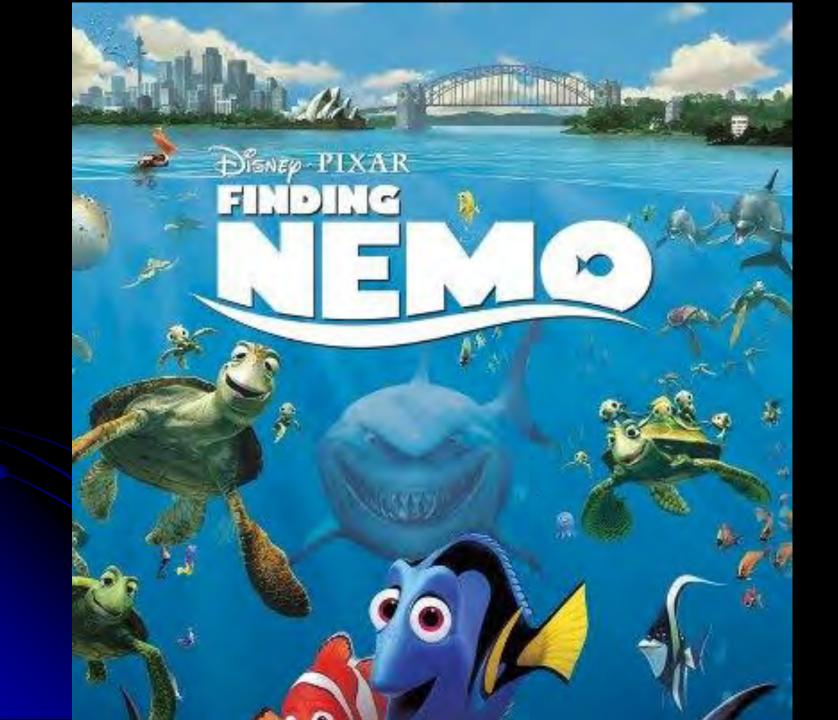
# CENTRATIO COMPANY DOBREAN CALE OF CALE RULLIE BURILION DES METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S TECHNICOLOR TRIC BULLIE BURILION DES METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S TECHNICOLOR TRIC MPH!

VICTOR FLEMING production Aurent In MERVYN LE ROY

CHARLEY GRAPEWIN AND THE MUNCHKINS







# **Jesus Christ**



# Moses



# The Buddah



# Answer:

#### They are the same story.

(According to Archetypal Theory)

# MonoMyth = 1 Story

• "A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man."

### JOSEPH CAMPBELL



THE HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES

# How did the idea of the MonoMyth come about?

- Myths are repeated throughout history in cultures. For Example:
  - Every culture has a creation story
  - A life after death belief
  - A reason for human failings
- This begs the question- why?





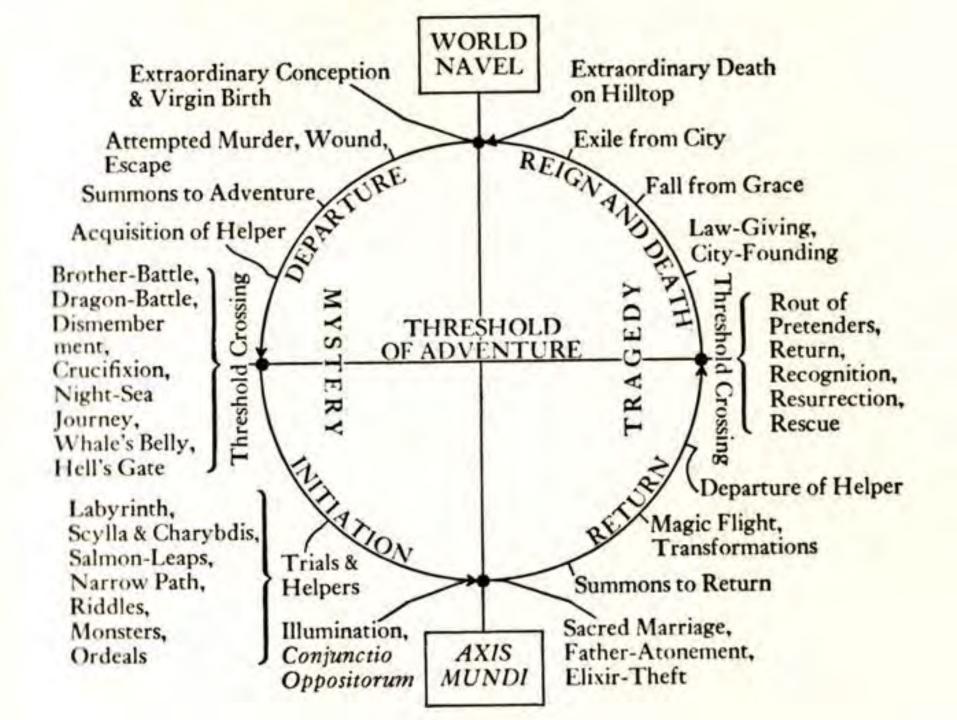


# Archetypal Analysis (Myth Theory)

- Freud's protégé Carl Jung broke away from his doctrine of the "individual unconscious" and proposed a "collective unconscious".
  - The collective unconscious is a set of shared "memories".
  - Analogy: Birds have an in-born knowledge from a million years of evolution, likewise Humans have the same shared knowledge of life that is sub-conscious (like instincts).
  - Likewise in literature, because we share cultural memories, we see symbols, characters, and situations that recur generation after generation in literature. These are called archetypes.

 Authors may (unconsciously) invoke various ancestral memories (archetypes) that readers (unconsciously) respond to emotionally.





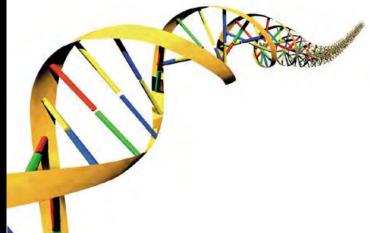
# THERE ARE FOUR STORY TYPES

- **Romance**, which places an innocent protagonist in an unreal world.
- <u>Tragedy</u>, which portrays a loss of innocence that leads to a catastrophe.
- Satire Irony, which depicts a confused, flawed situation that irony reveals and satire seeks to change
- <u>Comedy</u>, which transforms ironic confusion into rebirth and renewal.



# **DNA of a Story**

- These four story types themselves are archetypal.
- While there are an *infinite* number of stories, there are a *finite* number of story types.
- The four story types named above encompass **all** of the stories that have been, are, and will ever be told.
- Analogy to DNA



# Why Study Archetypes?

- Human experience follows a pattern of birth, growth, death, and rebirth.
- Human beings are born into this world in a state of innocence. Over time, this world of innocence is transformed into a world of experience.
- When you begin to understand that these common stages through which you pass are reflected in the literature that you read, one of the purposes for reading that literature begins to make more sense.
- Reading literature allows you to anticipate and better understand the life passages that you will experience.

# **Archetypal Criticism**

- When using Archetypal criticism to discuss literature, there are three basic categories:
  - archetypal characters (i.e. rebel, outcast, tyrant, saint, side-kick, wise old man, etc.)
  - archetypal symbols (i.e. light/dark, water/desert, spring/winter, day/night, birth/death/re-birth, etc.)
    archetypal situations (i.e. the quest/journey, the fall, the initiation, the divine marriage, etc.)



# Three main points to study

Archetypal characters Archetypal symbols Archetypal situations

## **Archetypal Characters**

#### The HERO

- The LONER or OUTCAST
- The MAIDEN
- The TEMPTRESS
- The MOTHEROTHER

### Archetypal Character: HERO

- Larger than life
- Search for self-identity results in selfdestruction
- Death of him/her leads toward some ideal
- Modern superheroes (Superman)



### Archetypal Character: LONER or OUTCAST

- Character separated from society
- Impaired physically, emotionally, physiologically
  - Ex. Jesus goes into the desert to discern his destiny
  - Buddha leaves society to come to terms with his philosophy
  - Victor Frankenstein runs away when he realizes he created a monster
- Heroes can be loners or outcasts too- Wolverine!



#### Archetypal Character: MAIDEN/VIRGIN

- Persephone or Hestia
- Represents purity, innocence, and, in all likelihood, naivete





THIS TIME, THERE'S NO ONE HERE TO HELP HER.

### Archetypal Character: EARTH MOTHER/GODDESS

- Mother Nature/Mother Earth
- Nurturing, life-giving aspect of femininity
- "Wise Old Woman"
- Example: Demeter or Hera

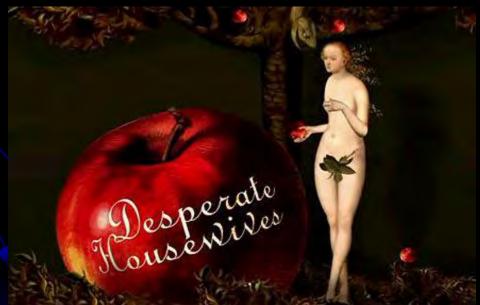


#### Archetypal Character: TEMPTRESS

#### Aphrodite

 She uses his desire (intentionally or unintentionally) to achieve his destruction

#### • Ex. Eve, Juliet, Lady Macbeth



#### Archetypal Character: Other

- The Scapegoat
- The Trickster
- The Wise Old Man
- The Side-Kick
- The Spirit or Intellect
- The Rebel
- The Saint
- Etc.

# **ARCHETYPAL SYMBOLS**

- COLORS
- NUMBERS
- WATER
- GARDENS
- GEOMETRIC SHAPES
  CELESTIAL BODIES
  YIN and YANG

#### Archetypal Symbols: COLORS

- Red = blood, passion, violence
- Gold=greatness, value, wealth
- Green-fertility, luxury, growth
- Blue (the color of the sky)=God-like holiness, peace, serenity
- White=purity

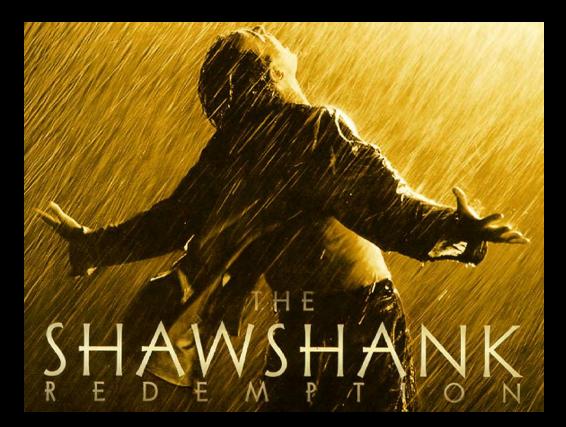
#### Archetypal Symbols: NUMBERS

- 3=Christian trinity, Female
- 4= The Seasons, ancient elements (earth, water, fire, air), Male
- 7 = Combination of Female & Male
- 12 =months of the solar year



#### Archetypal Symbols: WATER

- Source of life and sustenance
- Cleansing or purification
- Baptism



#### Archetypal Symbols: GARDENS

- Natural abundance
- Easy, beautiful life
- New birth, hope
- Eden, the original Paradise from which humankind was expelled



#### Archetypal Symbols: GEOMETRIC SHAPES

- Triangle= the trinity
- Circle = perfection and eternity, wholeness, union



### Archetypal Symbols: CELESTIAL BODIES

- Sun (masculine)=the giver and destroyer of life
- Moon (feminine)=the passage of time, controls the course of human events



#### Archetypal Symbols: YIN and YANG

- Any scheme that suggests that each of a pair of opposites partakes of the other's nature
- Without balance, the world would erupt into chaos



# ARCHETYPAL SITUATIONS

RENEWAL OF LIFE INITIATION The FALL REDEMPTIVE SACRIFICE The QUEST or Hero's Journey

### Archetypal Situations: RENEWAL OF LIFE

- Death and rebirth
- Resurrection as seen in the cycle of the seasons
- Phases of the day, sleeping and waking
- Ex. "Sleeping Beauty"



#### Archetypal Situations: INITIATION

- Coming of age
- Rites of passage
- Ex. First hunt, weddings, teenage angst films



#### Archetypal Situations: The FALL

- Any event that marks a loss of innocence
- A change from a paradise-like view of life to a tainted one
  - Ex. Gatsby's realization that he will never have Daisy in "The Great Gatsby"



### Archetypal Situations: REDEMPTIVE SACRIFICE

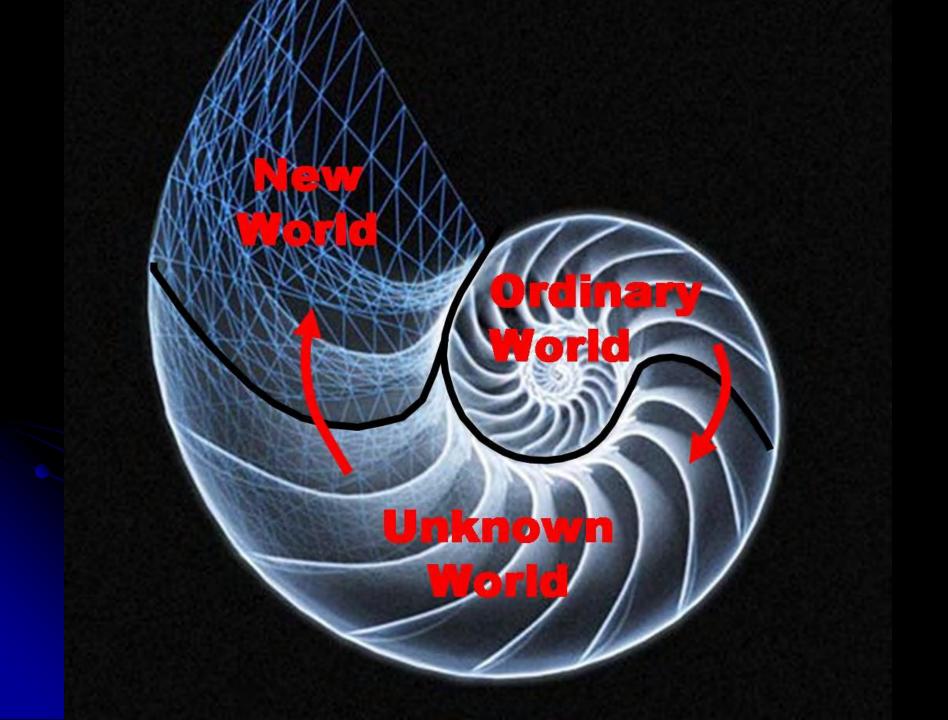
- Any voluntary loss
- Especially loss of life that results in another's gaining or regaining a desired state



### Archetypal Situations: The QUEST or "Hero's Journey"

- Hero's endeavor to establish his/her identity or fulfill his/her destiny
- 5 Basic Parts:
  - Quester
  - A place to go
  - A STATED reason to go there
  - Trials en route
  - A REAL reason to go there





### Departure

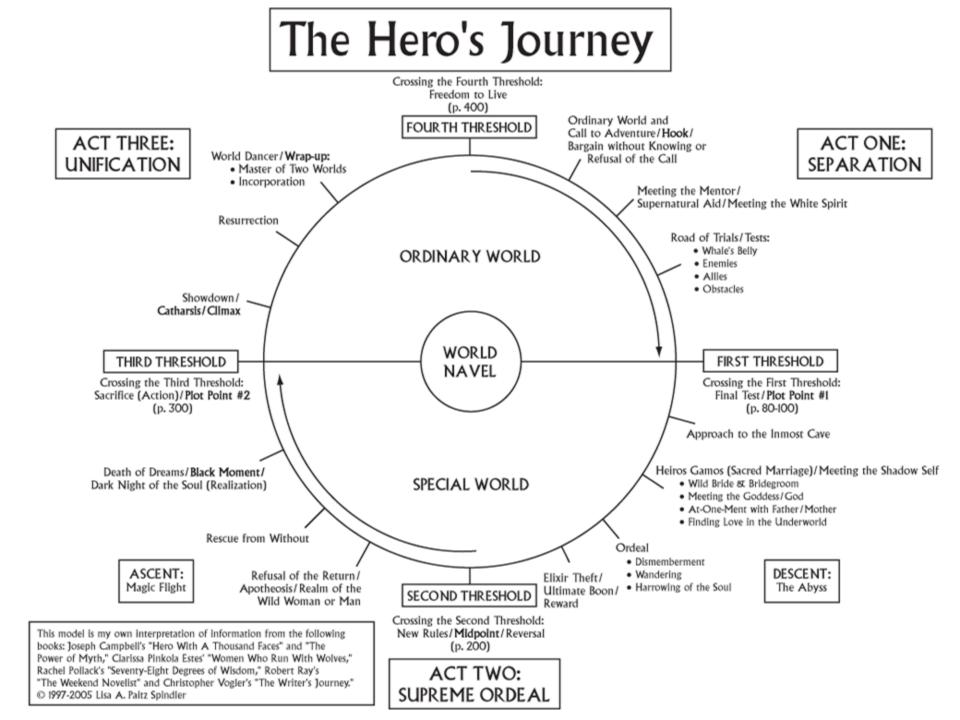
The Call to Adventure Refusal of the Call Supernatural Aid The Crossing of the First Threshold The Belly of the Whale- the moment of change, the low point

#### Initiation

- The Road of Trials The Meeting with the Goddess
- Woman as the Temptress
- Atonement with the Father- struggle against what controls you
- Apotheosis- rest and peace before return
- The Ultimate Boon- achievement of quest

#### Return

- Refusal of the Return
- The Magic Flight
- Rescue from Without
- The Crossing of the Return Thresholdreintegrate w/ society
- Master of the Two Worlds
- Freedom to Live





# Your Task

- Write a Story that Closely Follows the Hero's Journey/MonoMyth. It Must:
  - Have the 5 basic elements (more for higher scores & it will help you think of ideas).
  - Your Protagonist must show HUBRIS
  - It must start "In Media Res" (in the middle of the action- with flashbacks.
  - Incorporate at least one EPIC SIMILE