

## HEROES AND THE HERO'S JOURNEY

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**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 29 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 (29 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)
    - i. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-joseph-campbells-the-heros-journey>
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?
    - i. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-joseph-campbells-the-heros-journey>
3. **"Comic Book Hero" assignment**
  - a. Analyze a comic book hero for his or her heroic qualities.
    - i. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-joseph-campbells-the-heros-journey>
4. **Song Analysis**
  - a. "Superman" by Five for Fighting (music video)

- b. "Holding Out for a Hero" by Bonnie Tyler (music video)
      - i. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-joseph-campbells-the-heros-journey>
- 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: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-joseph-campbells-the-heros-journey>
- 6. **Stages of the Monomyth: "The Hero's Journey" (presentation and worksheet)**
  - a. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/the-heros-journey-and-character-archetypes-presentations-and-worksheets-bundle>
- 7. **Watch "Introduction to the Hero's Journey" and "Glove and Boots: The Hero's Journey" (YouTube videos)**
  - i. Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-joseph-campbells-the-heros-journey>
  - b. Have students use "Finding the Hero's Journey" worksheet to analyze a book, film, or video game of their choosing.
    - i. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/the-heros-journey-and-character-archetypes-presentations-and-worksheets-bundle>
- 8. **"Archetypes from Myth and Legend" (presentation)**
  - a. "Archetypes Worksheet" (worksheet)
  - b. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/the-heros-journey-and-character-archetypes-presentations-and-worksheets-bundle>
- 9. **"Gilgamesh: Part I" (script-story)**
  - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
  - b. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/gilgamesh-script-stories-digital-e-book>
- 10. **"Gilgamesh: Part II" (script-story)**
  - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
  - b. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/gilgamesh-script-stories-digital-e-book>
- 11. **"Gilgamesh: Part III" (script-story)**
  - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
  - b. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/gilgamesh-script-stories-digital-e-book>
- 12. **"The Tale of Perseus" (script-story)**
  - a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
    - i. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 13. **"The Winged Horse" (script-story)**

- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
    - i. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
  - b. "Types of Heroes" (worksheet)
    - i. Source: Source: <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/pages/teaching-joseph-campbells-the-heros-journey>
- 14. "Oedipus Rex" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
    - i. Source: *Reaching Olympus: Heroes, Beasts, and Monsters*
- 15. Hero Quest Card Game**
- a. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/hero-quest-classroom-game>
  - b. Give students several days to work on designing an original Hero's Journey.
- 16. "Beowulf: Part I" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
  - b. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/beowulf-script-stories>
- 17. "Beowulf: Part II" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
  - b. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/beowulf-script-stories>
- 18. "Beowulf: Part III" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
  - b. Available for download at <https://creativeenglishteacher.com/products/beowulf-script-stories>
- 19. "Sigurd the Dragonslayer" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
    - i. Source: *Reaching Valhalla: Tales from Norse Mythology*
- 20. "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
    - i. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*
- 21. "The Tale of Beaumains" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
    - i. Source: *The Road to Camelot: Tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*
- 22. "Princess Vasilissa and the Firebird" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
    - i. Source: [www.mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.html](http://www.mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.html)
- 23. "Momotaro" (script-story)**
- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
    - i. Available for download at <http://store.mythologyteacher.com>
- 24. "Urashima the Fisherman" (worksheet)**

- a. Analyze the myth for the stages of the Hero's Journey and archetypes.
  - i. Source: [www.mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.html](http://www.mythologyteacher.com/Fairy-Tales-Folktales-and-Fables.html)

**25. Play Hero's Journey Card Game**

**26. Rocky (film)**

- a. Discussion: What makes Rocky a hero?
- b. Discussion: What are the stages of the Hero's Journey in Rocky's story?

**27. Rocky (film)**

**28. Rocky (film)**

**29. 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*.