

TYPES OF HEROES

- Hero** In mythology a mighty warrior who is often the son of a god or king and goes on an epic quest
- Hero (2)** Main character of a story who often displays admirable qualities
- Anti-hero** Main character of a story who is flawed in some way and often does not display admirable qualities
- Tragic hero** Main character of a tragedy whose tragic flaw leads to his or her destruction
- Byronic hero** Rebellious main character who has a troubled past and indulges in self-destructive behaviors that threaten to doom him or her

DISCUSSION

- Who are some examples of each of these different types of heroes from literature, television, or film?

THE ANTI-HERO

Below are some examples of anti-heroes from comics, film, television, and literature.

- Batman (D.C. Comics)
- Captain Jack Sparrow (*Pirates of the Caribbean*)
- Conan the Barbarian (*Conan the Barbarian* novels and film)
- Holden Caulfield (*The Catcher in the Rye*)
- Homer Simpson (*The Simpsons*)
- Jay Gatsby (*The Great Gatsby*)
- Scarlett O'Hara (*Gone with the Wind*)
- Vito and Michael Corleone (*The Godfather*)
- Wolverine (Marvel Comics)

DISCUSSION

- What do all of these anti-heroes have in common?
- Why are flawed main characters sometimes more likable than ones who are not?
- Over the years the number of anti-heroes in popular culture has risen. Why do you think this is? Have the concepts of the hero changed over time?