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?