

GRADE 8 STAGE 4



STUDENT
WORKBOOK

The Hero's Journey

An integrated language, literacy & literature student workbook for exploring the hero's journey in narrative & nonfiction texts

shelley mcnamara

AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH
& All State-
based Syllabi
CURRICULUM v9



Qwiller Student Workbook

THE HERO'S JOURNEY

SHELLEY MCNAMARA



inspiring critical &
imaginative thinking

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Contents

Welcome	i
Using this workbook	i
The tools you could use	i
Resources	i
Pre-test: Revising the hero's journey	iv
Part 1: What is a hero/heroine?	1
1.1: What is a hero/heroine?	2
Heroes and heroines in literature and film	2
Heroes in <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>	2
1.2: Heroes/heroines in Australian society	7
Real-life Australian heroes and heroines	7
Defining heroes and heroines	7
1.3: Qualities of a hero	10
What makes a hero a hero?	10
Bilbo's heroism in <i>The Hobbit</i>	10
1.4: Qualities of a heroine	28
What makes a heroine and heroine?	28
The heroine in the Japanese fable 'The Grateful Crane'	28
1.5: The representation of gender in hero's journey films	33
Comparing characters	33
Gender and heroism in <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>	34
1.6: Create your own hero/heroine character	37
Creating characters	37
Heroic character qualities in the 'hero's journey' narrative	37
The hero in 'The Odyssey' by Homer	39
1.7: The anti-hero	43
What is the anti-hero?	43
The anti-hero in film: <i>Spiderman 1</i>	43
Hungry for more	46
Part 2: Purpose, audience, language & identity	47
2.1: The purpose and audience of heroes and heroines in society	48
Societal roles of heroes and heroines	48
A case study: Cathy Freeman, an Aboriginal Australian sporting hero	49
2.2: The purpose and audience of heroes and heroines in narrative	53
Literary roles of heroes and heroines	53
2.3: The language of the hero's journey	57
The hero's journey key terms	57

2.4: How punctuation creates an effect in narratives	60
Punctuation and impact	60
2.5: The hero and identity in comics	63
What is identity?	63
The construction of identity: What is identity determined by?	63
Classic comics and identity	64
2.6: Heroes in sport – changing heroic qualities & values	67
What makes a hero in sport?	67
Advertising in sport and heroism	68
2.7: Gender, sport & the hero – representation, recognition & remembrance	70
How gender shapes representation, recognition & representation in sport	70
Case study: Caster Semenya	70
Hungry for more	77
Part 3: Steps in the hero's journey & mythology	78
3.1: Steps in the hero's journey?	79
What is 'the hero's journey'?	79
Steps in 'the hero's journey'	80
'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde & the steps in the hero's journey	81
3.2: The quest	88
What is the concept of the quest?	88
Types of quests	88
3.3: The heroine's journey	90
What is 'the heroine's journey'?	90
Maureen Murdock's <i>The Heroine's Journey</i>	91
The heroine's journey stages in 'Beauty and the Beast'	91
3.4: The mythology of stories	99
What is mythology?	99
Mythology and 'The Icarus Myth'	99
3.5: Improving writing through spelling	102
Applying spelling rules	102
Spelling rules	102
Hungry for more	104
Part 4: Setting, characters & themes	105
4.1: First impressions of your hero's journey narrative	106
Making first impressions	106
4.2: Setting up worlds in visual and written narratives	108
Set up of literary worlds: paratext	108
Setting up the hero's journey world in <i>Lord of the Rings</i>	108
4.3: Settings in hero's journey narratives	113
Constructing settings in written and visual narratives	113

4.4: Characters in hero's journey narratives	117
The creation of characters in hero's journey narratives	117
How is characterisation expressed?	117
4.5: Dialogue in hero's journey narratives	121
What is dialogue?	121
Rules for writing dialogue	125
4.6: Themes in hero's journey narratives	129
What are themes?	129
Themes in hero's journey narratives	129
Hungry for more	134
Part 5: Style, character voice & language	135
5.1: Style in hero's journey narratives	136
Defining authorial style	136
How style is constructed	136
Filmic style in <i>Grandma's Hero</i>	137
5.2: Point of view	140
Introduction to first-, second- and third-person narratives	140
Types of narrative in 'Riddles in the dark' from <i>The Hobbit</i>	142
5.3: Character voice in hero's journey narratives	2
Defining voice	2
How character voice is constructed	2
'One Ordinary Day, With Peanuts' and the hero's journey	3
5.4: Written language devices in hero's journey narratives	8
Understanding written language devices	8
Definitions of language features	9
5.5: Writing description	17
What are adjectives and adverbs?	17
5.6: Symbolism in hero's journey narratives	22
What is symbolism?	22
How symbolism is constructed in written narratives	23
How symbolism is constructed in films	24
Symbolism in <i>Memoir of a Snail</i>	24
5.7: The language of film in hero's journey narratives	28
Visual language devices	28
Verbal and non-verbal language devices	28
Film devices	29
5.8: Opening scene analysis	37
Significance of the opening scene	37
Hungry for more	45

Part 6: Reviewing & creating hero's journey narratives	47
6.1: Structural features of reviews	48
Writing reviews of hero's journey narratives	48
How to write a review	49
Structural features of a review	49
6.2: Language features of reviews	53
Language features	53
6.3: Using tense in review writing	59
What is tense?	59
Tense types	60
A review example	60
6.4: Writing a logline for a hero's journey narrative	63
What is a logline?	63
Key elements in a logline	63
6.5: Creating characters for a hero's journey narrative	66
Crafting hero characters in hero's journey narratives	66
6.6: Writing a hero's journey synopsis	70
What is a synopsis?	70
6.7: Creating a storyboard for a hero's journey narrative	74
The hero's journey storyboard	74
Hungry for more	83
List of texts	85



Part 1: What is a hero/heroine?

Literacy

Definition of heroes and heroines
Traits and qualities of heroes/heroines
Representation in mythology

Language

Descriptive language for character traits
Comparative language
Use of dialogue in defining heroism

Literature

The Wizard of Oz – Examining a heroic figure
'The Grateful Crane' – Thematic study
Film clips – Visual storytelling of heroism

Key questions

- Level 1** What is a hero? What is a heroine?
 What characteristics define them?
 What are some examples of heroes and heroines?
- Level 2:** How do heroes/heroines compare?
 How does a hero's journey differ between cultures?
 What role do values and beliefs play in shaping a hero?
- Level 3:** How does the portrayal of heroes/heroines differ across cultures and
 time periods?
 What societal influences shape these portrayals?
 How do different storytelling mediums affect the hero's journey representation?

1.1: What is a hero/heroine?

HEROES AND HEROINES IN LITERATURE AND FILM



Heroes and heroines play crucial roles in literature, film, folklore, and mythology, serving as role models and symbols of the virtues they embody. Their stories inspire, entertain, and often teach important life lessons about struggle, perseverance, and the human spirit.

Dig deep

Think, pair, share

1. Look at the image on the left depicting a hero and heroine that you might find in literature. Discuss the following questions with a partner.
 - a. How does this image reflect texts you would associate with the hero or heroine?
 - b. Does this image represent your understanding of heroes and heroines? In what ways does it represent your understanding of heroes/heroines? In what ways does it NOT represent your understanding of heroes/heroines?
 - c. Does this image represent the cultural diversity of our society? In what ways does it represent the cultural diversity of our society? In what ways does it NOT represent the cultural diversity of our society?
 - d. What would you change about this image to make it more culturally diverse and realistic?
2. Create a visual representation of a more culturally diverse hero and heroine in literature. As an alternative, create a simple sketch and label with features of your hero and heroine that reflect cultural diversity.

HEROES IN *THE WIZARD OF OZ*

The Wizard of Oz is a classic hero's journey children's novel (1900) written by L. Frank Baum and illustrated by W. W. Denslow. The story follows the adventures of Dorothy, a young girl from Kansas who is transported by a cyclone to the magical land of Oz. To return home, Dorothy must travel to the Emerald City and seek help from the Wizard of Oz. Along the way, she befriends the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion, each seeking something they lack: brains, a heart, and courage. Together, they face various challenges and discover that they already possess the qualities they desire. Ultimately, Dorothy learns that she has the power to return home herself by clicking her silver shoes.



As you read these quotes from *The Wizard of Oz*, jot down ideas about the heroic qualities of the various characters.

The Wizard of Oz quotes

Quote 1: Chapter 1, cyclone quote

'It was Toto that made Dorothy laugh, and saved her from growing as grey as her other surroundings. Toto was not grey; he was a little black dog, with long silky hair and small black eyes that twinkled merrily on either side of his funny, wee nose. Toto played all day long, and Dorothy played with him, and loved him dearly.'

Quote 2: Chapter 6, Cowardly Lion quote

'Once, indeed, the Tin Woodman stepped upon a beetle that was crawling along the road, and killed the poor little thing. This made the Tin Woodman very unhappy, for he was always careful not to hurt any living creature; and as he walked along he wept several tears of sorrow and regret.'

Quote 3: Chapter 7, the journey to the Great Oz quote

'We are lost, for they will surely tear us to pieces with their sharp claws. But stand close behind me, and I will fight them as long as I am alive.'

Quote 4: Chapter 12, The Search for the Wicked Witch Quotes

'We dare not harm this little girl,' he said to them, 'for she is protected by the Power of Good, and that is greater than the Power of Evil. All we can do is to carry her to the castle of the Wicked Witch and leave her there.'

Quote 5: Chapter 13, The Rescue Quotes

'When, at last, he walked into Dorothy's room and thanked her for rescuing him, he was so pleased that he wept tears of joy, and Dorothy had to wipe every tear carefully from his face with her apron, so his joints would not be rusted. At the same time her own tears fell thick and fast at the joy of meeting her old friend again, and these tears did not need to be wiped away.'

Quote 6: Oz's advice

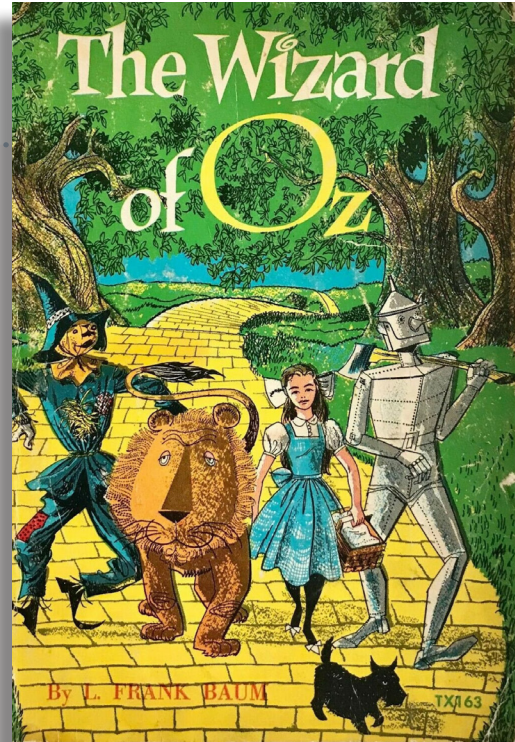
'You have plenty of courage, I am sure,' answered Oz. 'All you need is confidence in yourself. There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. True courage is in facing danger when you are afraid, and that kind of courage you have in plenty.'

Quote 7: Glinda grants Dorothy's wish quotes

'She threw her arms around the Lion's neck and kissed him, patting his big head tenderly. Then she kissed the Tin Woodman, who was weeping in a way most dangerous to his joints. But she hugged the soft, stuffed body of the Scarecrow instead of kissing his painted face, and found she was crying herself at this sorrowful parting from her loving comrades.'

Source: An original novel cover

https://i.etsystatic.com/13525222/r/il/e5b0d8/3161504629/il_1588xN.3161504629_f769.jpg



Dig deep

Think, pair, share

1. Look at the cover of the original novel, *The Wizard of Oz* (above). How does this cover convey heroic qualities? Is there anything about this covers that does not convey heroic qualities? What are they? Explain why you think this.
2. For each quote, write down the heroic qualities depicted.
3. What makes these qualities heroic to you? Explain your ideas.
4. Which qualities of a hero do you most relate to. Explain why you think this.

HEROES IN FILM

Great literature, including films, often feature memorable heroes and heroines who leave a lasting impact on audiences through their journeys, struggles, and triumphs. These characters embody the essence of heroism, each bringing something unique to the narrative. Recent years have seen a variety of films that introduced new heroes and heroines, or reimagined classic characters, leaving a significant mark on the landscape of cinema. These characters often reflect contemporary values and challenges, embodying resilience, diversity, and the complexity of modern heroism.

Here's a look at a few iconic heroes and heroines from cinema:

Heroes

- **T'Challa / Black Panther** (*Black Panther*, 2018) – The king and protector of the fictional African nation of Wakanda, T'Challa is a character who blends heroism with royal responsibility. His leadership and commitment to his people and to global harmony set a new standard for superhero films.
- **Tony Stark / Iron Man** (*Iron Man* series, 2008–2019) – A billionaire inventor who becomes a self-made superhero, Tony Stark's journey from selfish playboy to sacrificial hero is central to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. His wit, intelligence, and evolution make him a defining character of the era.
- **Miles Morales** (*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, 2018) – As the protagonist in this animated masterpiece, Miles redefines the Spider-Man legacy. A biracial teenager with a fresh perspective, his story emphasises the theme that anyone can be behind the mask.

Heroines

- **Diana Prince / Wonder Woman** (*Wonder Woman*, 2017) – An Amazonian warrior princess with a heart of gold, Diana Prince brings a message of peace and justice to the world of man. Her strength, compassion, and unwavering moral compass have made her an icon of female empowerment.
- **Rey** (*Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, 2015, and its sequels) – A scavenger with a mysterious past, Rey's journey to becoming a Jedi and confronting the dark side of the Force reinvigorated the Star Wars saga. Her resilience, kindness, and search for identity resonate with many viewers.
- **Carol Danvers / Captain Marvel** (*Captain Marvel*, 2019) – As one of the most powerful heroes in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Carol Danvers breaks barriers and challenges stereotypes, showcasing the strength of female heroism and the importance of self-discovery.
- **Dorothy Gale** (*The Wizard of Oz*, 1900) – A young girl from Kansas who embarks on a journey through the magical Land of Oz to find her way back home. Along the way, she demonstrates courage, compassion, and the importance of friendship.

- **Katniss Everdeen** (*The Hunger Games* series, 2012–2014) – A young woman who volunteers to participate in the Hunger Games in place of her sister, becoming a symbol of rebellion against a tyrannical government. Katniss embodies strength, resourcefulness, and the fight for justice.

Dig deep

Think, pair, share

1. Choose a film that includes a hero and/or heroine that appeals to you. Watch the trailer for this film. See the examples above to get you started. Discuss the following questions:
 - a. How are heroism and courage depicted in the trailer, and do these portrayals differ between male and female characters?
 - b. In what ways does the trailer address the abilities of its heroes and heroines, particularly in terms of physical, mental, or supernatural powers?
 - c. How does the trailer reflect cultural diversity through its characters, settings, or themes?
 - d. What impact might the portrayal of heroes and heroines in the trailer have on audiences' perceptions of gender roles, ability, and cultural diversity?

Complete the following activity.

Activity 1.1: Exploring heroes and heroines

Level 1

1. In pairs, think about heroes and heroines in literature and film, both past and present. Write a list.
2. Choose one hero or heroine you are familiar with.
3. Write down your ideas for the following:
 - a. What heroic deeds does your hero/heroine perform?
 - b. Describe your hero's characteristics:
 - physical characteristics
 - personality
 - typical behaviour
 - achievements.

Level 2

4. Creative writing activity: Think about your literary hero or heroine. Write an internal monologue from the perspective of this character where they demonstrate their perspective on themselves as a hero/heroine. What do they think about being a hero/heroine? Is it justified? Why/why not? How does this literary character see themselves? See the notes below on how to write an internal monologue.

How to write an internal monologue for a character

- **Understand the character:** Know their personality, motivations, and emotional state.
- **Set the context:** Establish the situation or trigger for the internal monologue (e.g., a conflict or decision).
- **Use first-person perspective:** Write in the character's voice using 'I' to reflect their thoughts and emotions.
- **Show, don't tell:** Include sensory details, emotions, and imagery to make their inner world vivid.
- **Keep it authentic:** Use language and tone that match the character's personality and background.
- **Reveal conflict:** Highlight internal struggles, fears, or desires to add depth.
- **Include stream of consciousness:** Use fragmented thoughts or questions to reflect real thinking patterns.
- **Maintain flow:** Ensure thoughts connect logically or emotionally, even if they're disjointed.
- **End with purpose:** Conclude the monologue with a decision, realisation, or unresolved tension to drive the story forward.

Activity 1.1: Exploring heroes and heroines

5. Share your monologue with a partner. What is similar/different about the internal thoughts of the heroic character? Why do you think this is the case?

Level 3

6. Write a critique of a film trailer or blurb on a novel/short story about heroes and/or heroines.
7. Include your perception on the following:
 - traditional and emerging representations of gender in heroic roles
 - the representation of diverse abilities and whether it perpetuates stereotypes or showcases characters overcoming adversity in a manner that is inclusive and empowering
 - the authentic representation of the cultural backgrounds of the heroes and heroines and how these backgrounds inform their identities and motivations
 - a consideration of how these portrayals might influence individuals' understanding of what it means to be a hero or heroine
 - how these narratives contribute to shaping societal norms and expectations around gender, ability, and cultural identity.

How to write a critique

- Writing a critique involves a structured approach to analysing and evaluating a work, such as an article, book, film, or painting, focusing on its strengths and weaknesses.

Structuring a critique

- **Introduction:** briefly introduce the work, including its title, author/creator, and your thesis statement.
- **Body paragraphs:** discuss various elements of the work (such as its structure, themes, execution, and impact) and support your evaluations with evidence. Contrast your observations with your research findings.
- **Conclusion:** summarise your main points and reiterate your thesis, highlighting the significance of your analysis.

Some pointers

- **Use evidence:** support your analysis: Provide specific examples from the work to back up your evaluations, whether praising or critiquing aspects of it.
- **Edit and revise:** review your work: Check for clarity, coherence, and conciseness in your arguments. Ensure that your critique is well-organised and your evidence clearly supports your thesis.
- **Proofread:** look for grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors.
- **Cite your sources:** make sure to properly cite any quotations, summaries, or ideas that are not your own, following the appropriate academic style guide.