

THE HERO'S JOURNEY



1

Warm up

Look at the pictures. In pairs, discuss the questions.

1. What do you know about these characters?
2. What do their stories have in common?



Replace the underlined phrases with the words below.

Group 1

myths

pattern

quest

threshold

unfamiliar

variants

1. American writer Joseph Campbell proposed that all heroes are different versions of the same one.
2. The Amazons and King Midas are characters from Greek stories from ancient times.
3. Many video games are based on a story with a long search and some sort of prize at the end.
4. When I'm reading a text in another language, I always underline the words that are not known to me.
5. The detectives investigating the crimes identified a regular way in which something happens.
6. He stood in the doorway of his house, trying to remember what he had to do.

Group 2

flee

formula

ordeal

seek

slay

trials

1. Everyone has to go through difficult experiences in life.
2. He survived an earthquake and wrote a book to talk about his difficult experience.
3. Refugees are people who escape from their own country because they are at risk there.
4. There is no magic recipe for a successful career.
5. In this game, you have to kill a dragon and take its treasure.
6. I think we should look for another way of solving this problem.

3 Listening 1

Watch the first part of the video (00:00-02:45). Put the stages of the Hero's journey in the correct order.

- ___ Crisis
- ___ Trials
- ___ Call to adventure
- ___ Return
- ___ Status quo
- ___ Approach
- ___ Departure
- ___ Result
- ___ New life
- ___ Treasure
- ___ Resolution
- ___ Assistance

4 Listening 2

Watch the second half of the video (02:46-04:33). Complete the sentences with a word or short phrase in each sentence.

1. Katniss Everdeen's call to adventure happens when her sister is called in the _____.
2. She leaves her _____ world by train.
3. The myth described in the video is always being _____.
4. We also go through the Hero's journey: we have experiences, _____ from them and repeat them.
5. We don't kill dragons, but we also have _____ problems, like auditions and try-outs.
6. The Hero's journey can be found in many books, movies and _____.
7. The speaker tells us to not ignore our call for adventure, but instead to say yes to the _____ and control our fears.

Vocabulary 2

Read the sentences from the video. Use the underlined words and phrases to answer the questions below.

1. ..., retelling dozens of stories and explaining how each represents the monomyth, or Hero's Journey.
2. The journey begins and ends in a hero's ordinary world, but the quest passes through an unfamiliar, special world.
3. Being a hero is hard work: our hero solves a riddle, slays a monster, escapes from a trap.
4. You leave your comfort zone, have an experience that transforms you, and then you recover and do it again.
5. Do the monsters bow down before the hero, or do they chase him as he flees from the special world?
6. All the tangled plot lines get straightened out.
7. What is the symbolic cave you fear to enter? Auditions for the school play? Baseball try-outs? Love?
8. Conquer your fear and claim the treasure you seek.

Group 1

1. Which phrase means to do something you are not used to? _____
2. Which is another word for kills? _____
3. Which two words are tests for sports or artistic events? _____
4. Which phrasal verb means organized things that are causing difficulties? _____
5. Which word is an adjective that means complicated? _____

Group 2

1. Which is another word for beat, defeat? _____
2. Which is a word that means lots? _____
3. Which word is a difficult question? _____
4. Which word means to ask for something you believe is yours? _____
5. Which phrasal verb means to accept orders from someone? _____
6. Which phrasal verb means to go through a city, etc., but not stop there? _____

6

Language box 1

Read the language box, then match the prefixes with their meanings.

Prefixes are letters that we add to the beginning of words to give them a different meaning. Some prefixes turn the word into its opposite (e.g., *illegal*, *impossible*), while others have different meanings (e.g. *minibreak* = a short break; *overcharge* = charge more than is correct).

Read the sentences from the video. How do they prefixes change the underlined words?

He studied myths from all over the world and published a book called "The Hero with a Thousand Faces," retelling dozens of stories...

The journey begins and ends in a hero's ordinary world, but the quest passes through an unfamiliar, special world.

He faces death and possibly even dies, only to be reborn.

12:00: Status Quo, but upgraded to a new level.

The Hero's Journey myth exists in all human cultures and keeps getting updated, because we humans reflect on our world through symbolic stories of our own lives.

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|--|-------------------|
| 1. mis- (misunderstand, misspell) | a. wrongly |
| 2. dis- (disagree, disappear) | b. one, single |
| 3. auto- (autobiography, autopilot) | c. more, beyond |
| 4. co- (co-author, co-worker) | d. after |
| 5. hyper (hypersensitive, hyperactive) | e. self, same |
| 6. post- (postgame, postnatal) | f. not, opposite |
| 7. uni- (unilateral, unicycle) | g. with, together |

7

Speaking

In groups, discuss the following questions.

1. What did you think of this video? What was the most interesting part?
2. Do you know any ancient myths?
3. What other books you have read or movies you have watched follow the Hero's Journey formula?
4. Can you think of an episode of your life when parts of the Hero's Journey can be applied?

Instructions: Choose a popular story with a hero (from a book or movie) and write which stages of the hero's journey it has. Write it in the text space below.

