**English 4 Honors Heroes in Literature**

**Summer Assignment**

**Required Texts:** PDF( links below), film of choice, and *A Hope in the Unseen* by Ron Suskind

**Joseph Campbell’s The *Hero With A Thousand Faces***

**Part I**

**Monomyth:**

Twentieth century mythologist, professor of literature, and author, Joseph Campbell recognized an underlying storyline structure common to all hero stories. He called this universal story structure the monomyth. The monomyth of the hero applies to classical hero mythology, but it can be applied to modern stories as well.

Campbell organizes the hero’s journey into three main stages, **Departure, Initiation**, and **Return**. Within these three categories, Campbell identifies specific steps or stages the hero will encounter. As we trace the hero’s journey throughout our course, we will return to Campbell’s structure.

Please read about the 17 stages of a hero’s journey using the link below, or copying and pasting the pdf address into your browser. Then populate the organizer that follows, based on your understanding of Campbell's 17 stages of the monomyth. Explain each stage using your own words. The outline you create will be used throughout our first unit of study, and we may return to it again later in the semester.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PzWsuSfvff37m07tXcbEunAdS3Ji4_BolQpOJmkV_oY/edit?usp=sharing>

[file:///home/chronos/u-173c11a2015f686fa7a457f227479319f7391c06/MyFiles/Downloads/The%20Hero's%20Joseph%20Campbell.pdf](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PzWsuSfvff37m07tXcbEunAdS3Ji4_BolQpOJmkV_oY/edit?usp=sharing)

**The Monomyth of the Hero**

**I. Departure**

**II. Initiation**



**III. Return**



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**Part II**

**Joseph Campbell’s The *Hero With A Thousand Faces***

**Recognizing the Hero’s Journey in Modern Film**

For the second part of the assignment, you will create a second outline, only this time you will apply the stages of the hero’s journey to a modern film.

Step 1: Select a film that you believe follows the Hero’s Quest as prescribed by Campbell. While all 17 stages might not appear, a good number of them should apply, if you’ve selected well.

Step 2: View the film, studying the hero’s journey closely and taking notes to prepare for your outline. The hero may be male or female, and human or creature.

Step 3: Using your first outline as a guide, create a new outline, identifying specific ways that the hero of your selected film embodies the 17 characteristics and experiences you identify in your first outline.

Be prepared to explain and discuss your outline in class.

Here are some film suggestions, or seek out a different title on your own:

Star Wars (any)

Spider Man

Lion King

Lord of the Rings (any)

Men in Black

The Hunger Games

The Princess Bride

The Hobbit (any)

Jaws

The Wizard of Oz

Where the Wild Things Are

Avatar

Where The Wild Things Are

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Shrek

Field of Dreams

**The Monomyth of the Hero Movie Title:**

**I. Departure**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

**e.**

**II. Initiation**

**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

**e.**

**f.**

**III. Return**



**b.**

**c.**

**d.**

**e.**

**f.**

**English IV Honors, Heroes**

**Summer Assignment**

**Part III: *A Hope in the Unseen***

*Ron Su*skind’s biographical novel, *A Hope in the Unseen; An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League* details Cedric Jennings’ journey through his last years in an inner city high school through his first years in an ivy league college.

As you read, take notes on the following, and type your notes into a Google Document:

* List and describe the physical environment(s) that define Cedric Jennings’ world; consider locations familiar to him along his journey from high school through college.
* Take note of the conditions of each environment, and how each location affects Cedric.
* Characterize the significant people (family, friends, acquaintances, strangers) Cedric encounters along his journey. Address how these individuals impact Cedric.
* Consider how Cedric changes during the course of the story. What has he learned? What strengths have carried him through the tough times? What weaknesses has he had to overcome?
* Think about how Cedric follows his own “hero’s journey.” Find parallels between Cedric’s real-life journey and Campbell’s monomyth.

Be prepared for class discussion and an in-class essay exploring how Cedric Jennings embodies his own hero’s journey and illustrates how Campbell’s monomyth and heroes in the literature we read truly reflect human experience.