



MERLIN WORKS NARRATIVE LONGFORM HANDOUT

WHAT IS A HERO?

Someone the audience cares about, who is suffering in pursuit of a goal

HOW TO BE A HERO

Have emotional reactions and care about things
Have an objective, something you want deeply
Have a moral compass
Be low status
Be changed/have multiple sides to your character
Be someone the audience can identify with and root for

SECONDARY CHARACTERS

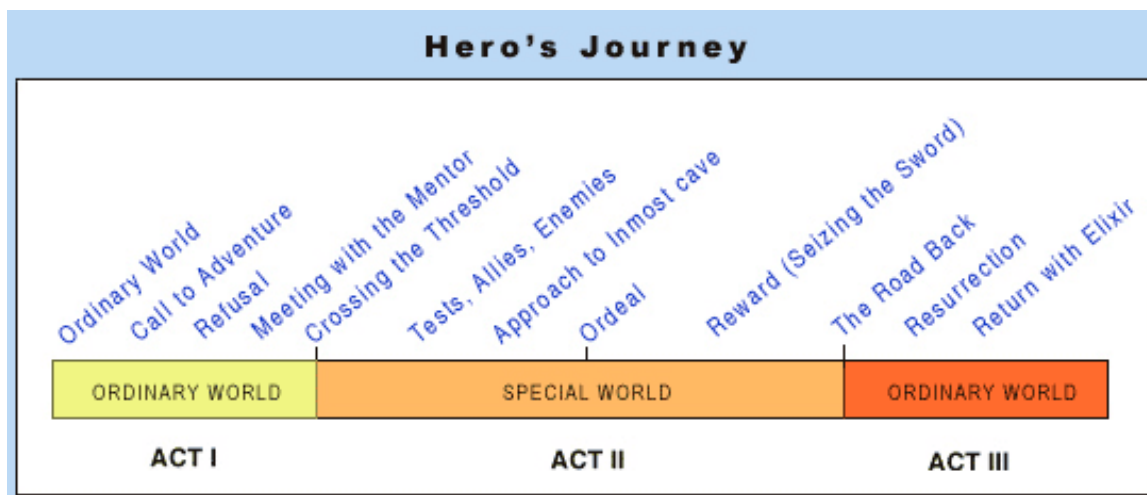
- **Helpers:** Friends, Window Characters, Confidant, Mentors
- **Antagonist:** Rivals, Challengers, Siblings, Competition
- **Enemies:** Villains, Criminals, Bad Guys
- **Romantic Interest**
- **Sidekicks:** Sidekicks, Sassy Friends, More Vulnerable Family Members, New Guys
- **Threshold Guardians:** Authority Figures, Judges, Bouncers, Committees, Parents, Gatekeepers
- **Cruel World Characters:** Crowds, Buses on rainy days, Unhelpful staff
- **Save the Cat Characters:** Elderly Neighbors, Kids who get picked on

BASIC HERO STORY STRUCTURE

1. Establish Hero in an Ordinary World
2. Call to Adventure/Raise the Question
3. Hero changes through dynamic pursuit of objective through tests, allies, and enemies
4. Answer Question/Climax/Ordeal

TYPES OF EDITS and WIPES

- Lights out (clear stage or stay in same position and justify)
- Sweep/Cross in front
- Start New Scene without recognition and take focus
- Segue ("Later that night" "Training Montage")
- Exit (continue action until offstage)
- Talking off the line (one scene enters as one scene exits)
- Tap In/Out w same/new character (can use last line of dialogize)
- Split/Multi-focus Scene (can interweave spatially)
- Flash back/forward (can be with internal narration)
- Split from the herd
- Create hubbub w/ group scene
- Scene Painting or Genre Narration
- Internal Narration/Aside/Monologue
- Wave Lights Down
- Character/Location Snap
- Swinging Door
- Transformer edit (everyone repeats gesture/sound)
- Meta
- Sound effect/music swells



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