

# Assignment: Archetypes & Identity

Why are archetypes important? Life is definitely complex and confusing. As we attempt to find our own identity, struggle with social interactions, and grapple with moral issues, identifying recognizable patterns of behaviour in others helps us understand ourselves.



1. What character from a movie, book, or story reminds you in some way of yourself? Why?

2. Many literary characters, journeys, and themes are widely known. Their qualities can often be matched to other characters across cultures. Match the allusion (an indirect or passing reference to a well-known text in this case) on the left with the quality on the right.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Stop being a Queen (Snow White)
- \_\_\_\_\_ He is a Scrooge
- \_\_\_\_\_ He is a Robin Hood
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is a true Cinderella story
- \_\_\_\_\_ What a Romeo!
- \_\_\_\_\_ He attacks the situation like Frodo (LOTR)

- a. impulsive, a dreamer
- b. jealous, tricky
- c. curious, undertakes a journey, good
- d. rags to riches, happy ending
- e. stingy, mean
- f. champion for the poor

3. Record two examples for each archetype in the Example column. Listed are several Disney stories, movies, and characters/quests from Mythology to help you. You do NOT have to choose from this list. You may want to use characters from your chosen film in the first assignment.

Aladdin	Wizard of Oz	Toy Story	Joker	Donkey (Shrek)	Sauron (LOTR)	The Sirens	Calypso
The Sword and the Stone	Cinderella	Robin Hood	Hancock	Sleeping Beauty	A Bug's Life	Peter Pan	Yoda
Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs		Beauty and the Beast	Batman		Samwise Gamgee	The ugly duckling	
	Robin (Batman)	Shrek	Aragorn (LOTR)	Alice v. the Queen of Hearts		Cinderella's fairy godmother	
Perseus outwits three sisters and kills Medusa		Frodo must destroy the ring		King Arthur must get the sword, <i>Excalibur</i>			

Archetype	Quality	Example
Hero	Conquers obstacles and saves the day; typically embarks on some quest, either physical or spiritual. The quality that makes a character truly heroic is his willingness to put others ahead of himself.	
Damsel in Distress	A vulnerable woman (usually beautiful and pure) who needs to be rescued by the hero; often used as a trap to ensnare the unsuspecting hero.	
Mother Figure	The archetypal mother figure doesn't have to literally be a mother. Role is to care for and guide her "family"; sometimes a spiritual leader, and usually receives love and respect from other characters.	
The Journey	The journey sends the Hero in search of some truth that will help save his kingdom/home	
Battle of Good & Evil	A battle between two primal forces. Mankind shows eternal optimism in the continual portrayal of good triumphing over evil despite great odds.	

4. In a well-written paragraph choose one archetype and create an original character to represent that archetype. Consider both the outer and inner traits of the character during this process.

Archetypal traits could include some or all of the following:

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Goals
- Talents
- Personality
- Skin/hair/eye color
- Physical attributes
- Dreams/desires
- Words
- Thoughts

Provide evidence and reasoning for whom your character is and how the characters represent the particular archetype you have chosen. Below is a list of possible archetypes or refer to the previous page. You may need to do some research first.

- sidekick
- villain
- underdog
- the trickster
- outcast
- mentor
- the nurturer
- temptress
- the innocent
- false prophet  
/magician
- the sage
- the rebel