

Name: _____ Block: _____

Date: _____

World Myths and Folktales: Stories of Human Kind

The Hero and the Quest: Project

DUE: _____

Introduction: The hero's mentor is one of the most important figures in the hero's quest story. She/he has "gone before," and therefore has the wisdom that the hero needs to succeed on her/his own journey. Although the hero may not always listen to her/his mentor, sometimes knowing that someone else has achieved a similar goal or overcome similar hardships is enough to sustain the hero during her/his quest.

Task: This project will require you to interview someone you consider to be a mentor (or someone who has achieved the same goal you someday hope to achieve) – a parent/guardian, coach, teacher, counselor, pastor, etc. – to apply the heroic archetype to *their* story and then reflect on their experience. *NOTE: Although our friends can be excellent mentors, the person you interview should be at least twice your age. If you would like to interview someone who does not meet this age requirement, please come see me to discuss it.*

Requirements: This project contains three parts: interview, presentation, and a reflection. Please review the requirements for each portion of this project as they are outlined below:

1. **Interview:** While only the presentation and reflection will be scored, the interview is the most crucial portion of the project; therefore, your notes will be collected. If you do not turn in your interview notes, your project will lose one full letter grade (11 points). **I have provided some information and a list of potential questions for you on the back of this paper.**
2. **Presentation:** Although you will not be presenting this project, after you complete your interview you will compile your notes and create a presentation-type product that clearly illustrates your mentor's story *as a heroic quest* (see below for suggestions); **however, you must include at least the following stages of the hero's quest: Ordinary World; Call to Adventure; Mentor; Crossing the Threshold; Tests, Allies, and Enemies; Reward; and Elixir.** Your presentation should also incorporate visual/auditory elements. Make it special!
3. **Reflection:** As the final portion of your project, I would like you to answer the following questions as truthfully as you can while considering *why* we study this specific story pattern:
 - a. What have you learned about life's journey because of completing this project?
 - b. What have you learned about yourself or the person you interviewed (that you didn't know already) because of completing this project? How will this information help you in your own "quest?"

Project Ideas/Acceptable Formats: You may complete this project electronically or in a more "hands on" format. If you have an idea and it's not listed here, please clear your method of presentation with me BEFORE you do it. Here are some suggestions:

- Electronic: PowerPoint presentation, YouTube video (record your interview, divide the interview into sections with video editing software) or other movie making software, Prezi, etc.
- Physical: Poster, a short story (please type using MLA format), photo album/scrapbook, etc.

Grading/Scoring Guide: This assignment will be worth a project grade of 100 points. The breakdown for your total score is as follows:

Required stages of the Heroic Quest: 70 points

- ___ Ordinary World
- ___ Call to Adventure
- ___ Mentor
- ___ Crossing the Threshold
- ___ Tests, Allies, and Enemies
- ___ Reward
- ___ Elixir

Presentation Style: 10 points

___ Presentation includes visual and/or auditory elements that support and/or emphasize the information provided

Reflection: 20 points

- ___ Question 1
- ___ Question 2

Interview notes included?

- ___ Yes
- ___ No (-11 points)

TOTAL: _____/100

Ms. Muhlbauer

Language Arts

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Required Stages/Descriptions:

1. Ordinary World: background information about your mentor (may include both current information and information relevant to where your mentor's story begins)
2. Call to Adventure: describe the goal your mentor was trying to accomplish/has accomplished
3. Mentor: identify & describe the person who supported your mentor during the pursuit of her/his goal
4. Crossing the First Threshold: describe the first thing your mentor did in order to accomplish her/his goal
5. Tests, Allies, Enemies: describe the challenges your mentor faced in reaching her/his goal, identify the people who helped her/him, and identify any enemies or other hindrances to her/his goal
6. Reward: describe how your mentor finally accomplished her/his goal
7. Elixir: explain what your mentor gained from this experience

Interview Questions: Before you begin, it would be wise to explain to your mentor/interviewee what, exactly, the hero's quest *is*. I would suggest that you share with them some information from your notes and/or the video we watched in class (which can be found by searching for "What Makes a Hero?" by Matthew Winkler on YouTube). Here are some questions you may ask during your interview:

1. What is an important goal or achievement that you have accomplished?
2. What were you doing before you began this journey? (May include age at the time, location, etc.)
3. Why did you want to achieve this goal?
4. Was there a person who helped/guided you through this process? If so, who was it and how did they help? If not, how did you stay focused/driven during this process?
5. What was the first step you took toward achieving your goal? How did it feel?
6. What were some of the challenges or obstacles you encountered during your journey? How did you overcome them?
7. Were there any people who helped you periodically, or did you meet any new people that became friends during this process?
8. What about enemies? Did you feel like there were people out there trying to ruin your progress? Did you, at any point, become your own enemy? How did you defeat your enemies?
9. How did you finally accomplish your goal? How long did it take? Is there anything about your journey you'd change if you could?
10. What did you physically gain from this experience? What did you learn about yourself or your world because of this journey? What is your life like now?