

World Myths and Folktales: *The Stories of Human Kind***Introduction to The Hero and the Quest*****Literary Significance***

- Tales of the hero and the heroic quest occur in nearly every world culture.
- _____: “the one story”
 - The “heroic quest” is an _____, and the story pattern has roughly the same structure from culture to culture.

The Nature of the Quest Hero

- _____ heroes...
 - can be male or female.
 - usually have a remarkable birth or childhood.
 - He or she is usually the offspring of a _____ and a _____ being, thus possessing qualities of both immortals and mortals.
 - He or she may also be born under _____ circumstances. Sometimes they are _____ of their origins and are raised by _____ parents.
 - They often show early signs of being special, possessing either superhuman _____ or _____ powers.
- _____ heroes...
 - are often _____ people.
 - Sometimes the folktale hero may be a _____-child or a neglected youngest child who is scoffed at by parents or older brothers and sisters.
 - typically lack superhuman abilities, but are out of the ordinary in other ways.
 - Many such heroes are exceptionally _____, _____, or _____.

Both mythic and folktale heroes are called to participate in an adventure or forced to face a series of challenges or tests.

The Nature of the Quest Hero

- Mythic heroes often triumph over _____ forces and bring about the _____ of their society or the entire world.
- Folktale heroes usually triumph over obstacles in their own lives and win _____.

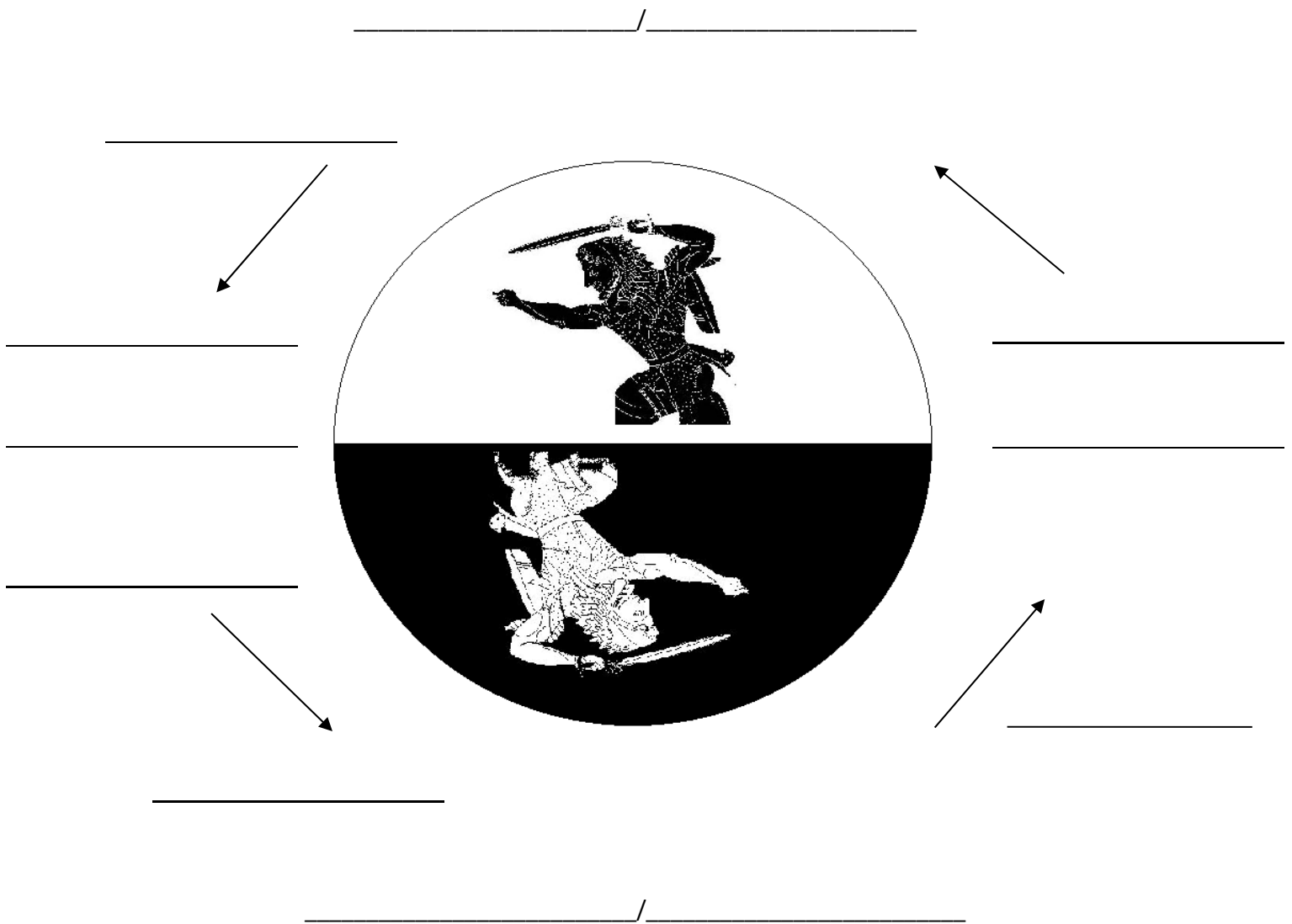
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The Hero's Quest

- A _____ is a journey taken in search of something of value.
 - The prize that is sought may be a specific _____, such as a beautiful princess; an abstract _____, such as truth or the meaning of life; or a concrete _____, such as a treasure or a magical charm.
 - Sometimes the hero is simply searching for his or her " _____," such as a parent he or she has never known.

Label the stages of the Heroic Journey according to American mythologist, Joseph Campbell.



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Define each stage of the heroic quest using the chart below.

Stage in the Hero's Journey	Defining Characteristic of This Stage
<i>Birth</i>	
<i>Call to Adventure</i>	
<i>Mentor/Amulet</i>	
<i>Crossing the Threshold</i>	
<i>Tests</i>	
<i>Helpers</i>	
<i>Climax/Final Battle</i>	
<i>Flight</i>	
<i>Return</i>	
<i>Elixir</i>	
<i>Home</i>	

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What the Quest Means to Us

- The heroic quest is so universal because the challenges that the quest hero faces are _____ of the challenges that each of us must face in life.
 - “ _____ ” may symbolize the individual fighting against social injustices or against inner conflicts that prevent happiness.
 - The journey to the _____ might symbolize facing unpleasant realities, such as the existence of death, or looking inside ourselves to ask and answer tough questions.
 - _____ of _____ are also traditional components of the hero’s quest. In rites of passage, an individual is expected to go through certain _____ trials of intellectual or physical power before he or she is recognized as a full member of _____ society.