

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Mind – Mentor – either male or female, depending on the gender of the hero

Spirit – Usually female

Heart – Usually male

Hand – Hero – either male or female

In following the outline of the 12 point Hero's Journey, as set forth in Christopher Vogler's book *The Writer's Journey Mythic Structure for Storytellers and Screenwriters*, the character's quest, however, can only begin once the protagonists have moved from their ordinary world into their new "magical" world and accepted the call to adventure. In order to achieve their goals, the hero requires help from three main archetypes – the Mentor, the Herald and the Shapeshifter (Vogler, 1999).

The Mentor, defined by Freud as the "SuperEgo" and by Jung as "Sophus" (mind) portrays the Adult side of the hero. This character is there to guide, support and direct the hero, only providing as much information as is necessary at any given point. Eg: *The Philosopher's Stone* – Albus Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts.

The Herald, defined by Freud as the "Ego" and by Jung as "Spiritus" (spirit) portrays the Parent side of the hero. This character brings the voice of reason, logic and motivation of the hero and generally works alongside the hero throughout the duration of the quest. Eg: *The Philosopher's Stone* – Hermoine. While it is often thought that the feminine presence is better defined by the Shapeshifter, through the portrayal of a strong and determined female character, whether used as a love interest or not, the hero ultimately listens to advice, whereas if the Herald was portrayed by a male character, there might often be cause for anger and violence at the reason, logic and motivation supplied.

The Shapeshifter, defined by Freud as the "Id" and by Jung as "Anima" (heart) portrays the Child side of the hero. This character shows the inner vulnerability, the need to question and the steadfast faith of the hero. Along with the Herald, the Shapeshifter works alongside the hero for the duration of the quest, often times offering their life as sacrifice in order for the hero to achieve the set objective. Eg: *The Philosopher's Stone* – Ron. The Shapeshifter is often portrayed by a male character, never as internally strong or as enigmatic as the hero but through their own imperfections, build a greater sense of strength for the hero.

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Without these three main archetypes, the Hero, defined by Freud as the "Mind" and by Jung as "Manus" (hand) cannot successfully function, as each separate character portrays a different side to the Hero personality. Using these clearly defined archetypes, the reader learns the nature of the true hero. It also sends the message that without support, logic and friendship (faith), set goals are more impossible to achieve.

References:

Vogler, C 1999, '*The Writer's Journey Mythic Structure for Storytellers and Screenwriters 2nd Revised Edition*', Pan Books, London.