



The Hero's Journey

*"If the path before you is clear,
you're probably on someone else's path."*

*"You must give up the life you planned
in order to have the life that is waiting for you."*

"Where you stumble and fall, there you will find gold."

- Joseph Campbell

Rationale: Our lives are steeped in stories of heroism, tragedy and triumph: the stories we tell ourselves, our family stories, traditional and sacred stories, history, drama, literature and music. Heroic stories are powerful stuff. A well told tale can capture the imagination, elicit emotion and empathy, inform or persuade, and even shape our worldview. And we can harness the power of narrative, to shape our stories and unleash our inner heroes.

Essential Questions:

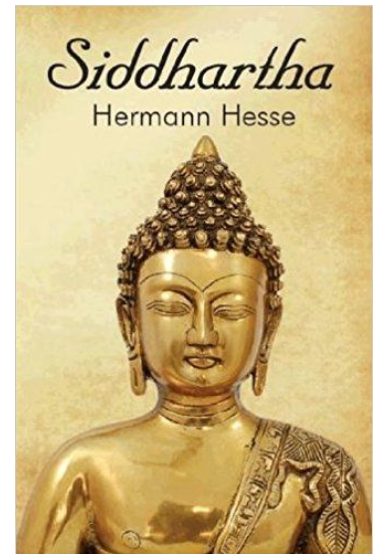
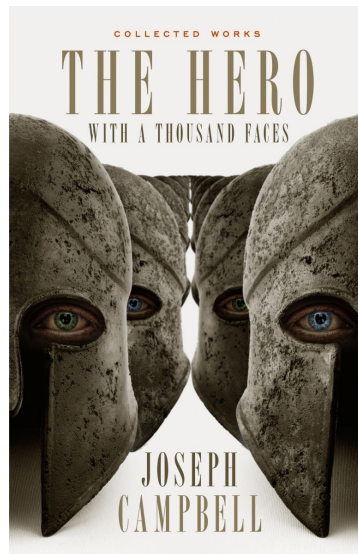
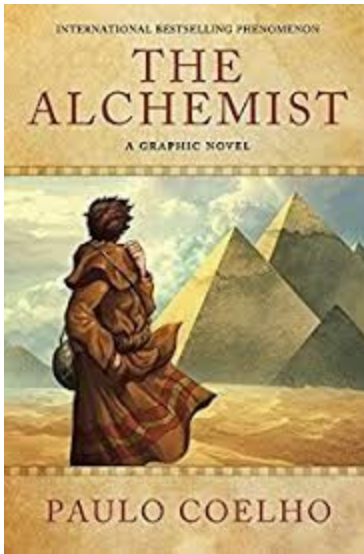
- Why do we tell stories?
- How do stories shape our lives?
- What makes a great story?
- What makes someone a hero?

Task:

Our class will be hosting a live storytelling event, in the style of the Moth, where students and community members explore the hero's journey and tell tales of struggle and heroism in their own lives. To frame our stories we'll explore Joseph Campbell's concept of the monomyth, and the elements that many great stories have in common. We'll analyze the hero's journey in classical mythology, in the movie *Moana*, in the modern novels "*Siddhartha*" and *The Alchemist*," in community members' stories, and in our own stories.

Calendar:

- September 6th - 8th: "Call to Adventure" Camping Trip
- Week 1-3: Building Background Knowledge about the Hero's Journey
- Week 4: Analyze the Hero's Journey "*The Alchemist*"
- Week 5: Analyze the Hero's Journey in "*Siddhartha*"
- Weeks 6: Capture Stories from Community Members
- Weeks 7-8: Oral Storytelling Workshop
- Weeks 9: Written Storytelling Workshop
- Week 9-10: Building Our Exhibition



Assessment Tasks:

- **Journal** - Reflect on the hero's journey and develop your storytelling skills through daily writing prompts.
- **Illustrate the Monomyth** - Create visual representation the hero's journey cycle.
- **Participate in Socratic Seminars** - Discuss your takeaways from "The Alchemist" and "Siddhartha" with your classmates.
- **Capture a Hero's Story** - Identify a hero in our community and interview them.
- **Tell Your Story** - Tell your own story based on one phase of the hero's journey. It could be a true story from your own life, from someone else's life, or a fictional story about a hero.
- **Write Your Story** - Write our your hero story and edit it into a short story.
- **Create a Hero's Journey Exhibit** - Work with a team to create an interactive, visual exhibit of one phase of the hero's journey to help community members understand the monomyth.

Challenge Extensions Options

- **Choice Novel** - Read the book of your choice and analyze it through the lens of the hero's journey.
- **Literary Comparison** - Use literary analysis to compare "The Alchemist" and "Siddhartha."
- **Podcast Your Interview** - Upload your interview with a community member to Storycorps.
- **Pitch Your Story** - Submit your story to the Raven Narratives or the Moth for consideration.
- **Visual Story** - Create a visual story to accompany your oral and written stories - it could be a short film, a graphic novel, a series of photographs, etc.
- **Hero's Journey Art Piece** - Create an artistic representation of the hero's journey.
- **Your Own Idea**