

Question sheet 5: Quest Story



Student name: _____

Teacher: _____ Class: _____

The *Quest story* structure has the following, broad stages:

1. The hero in his (or her) **ordinary world**. This stage is important because it provides a contrast to what happens next. Also, it is important to remember that what is ordinary (or usual) for the hero, is not necessarily ordinary (or usual) for the reader or viewer.
2. **The call to adventure**: a problem arises that forces the hero to leave his normal world and embark on the quest. The problem can be a physical challenge (e.g. in Lockie's case riding down Zig Zag Hill) or emotional (e.g. winning Vicki's affection). In addition, there may be more than one problem to overcome.
3. **Entry into the extraordinary world**, the world of the quest where the hero is taken out of his or her comfort zone.
4. **The meeting of allies** (friends and people who help the hero, including mentors) **and enemies** (people who try to stop the hero achieving his goal). Normally, the hero will have a *Shadow*, that is someone who is his opposite, someone who acts as his main enemy.
5. **The inmost cave**: the darkest moment in the story, the moment when things appear the bleakest for the hero.
6. **Escape**: the hero somehow escapes from the 'cave' and...
7. **Return to ordinary world with the prize**: the hero returns to his normal life with a prize – not necessarily what he expected – and changed in some way. In a television series, this return is usually temporary because in the next episode the hero will embark on another mini-quest.

Respond to the following questions individually or in discuss in groups:

<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What qualities do you expect a hero to have? ▪ Where have these expectations come from? ▪ Does Lockie Leonard have these qualities? Is he the typical hero? Explain. 	

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2	<p>In quest stories, with a male as the main character, it is common for a girl to be the prize at the end of the <i>Hero's Journey</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Is this the only prize that awaits Lockie? Or, is his journey to win Vicki part of a bigger journey?▪ If you know how the series ends, does the journey end as viewers might expect?• How does this compare to the ending in Tim Winton's trilogy?	
3	<p>Who are Lockie's allies, that is, who are his friends and mentors?</p>	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Does Lockie have a <i>Shadow</i>, a main enemy? Who is this?▪ Often the Shadow (as the name suggests) is a dark (or bad) version of the hero. Would you agree that this is true of Lockie's main enemy?	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Can you think of other stories, movies or television series that you know of that use the <i>Quest story</i> structure?▪ Are the heroes normally male or female? What do you think about that?	

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6	<p>Because the quest is very common in stories, readers and viewers usually know when they start reading that the hero will win through in the end.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Do you like to know that everything will work out all right for the hero in the end? ▪ What would be the effect on viewers (and readers of the novel) if Lockie eventually failed?	Yes / No
7	<p>While the quest (or <i>Hero's Journey</i>) is a common structure, clever writers will add unexpected elements to the story so that it is not too predictable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Are there unexpected bits in the Lockie Leonard series?▪ What are they?▪ Do they improve the quality of the story? How?	Yes / No