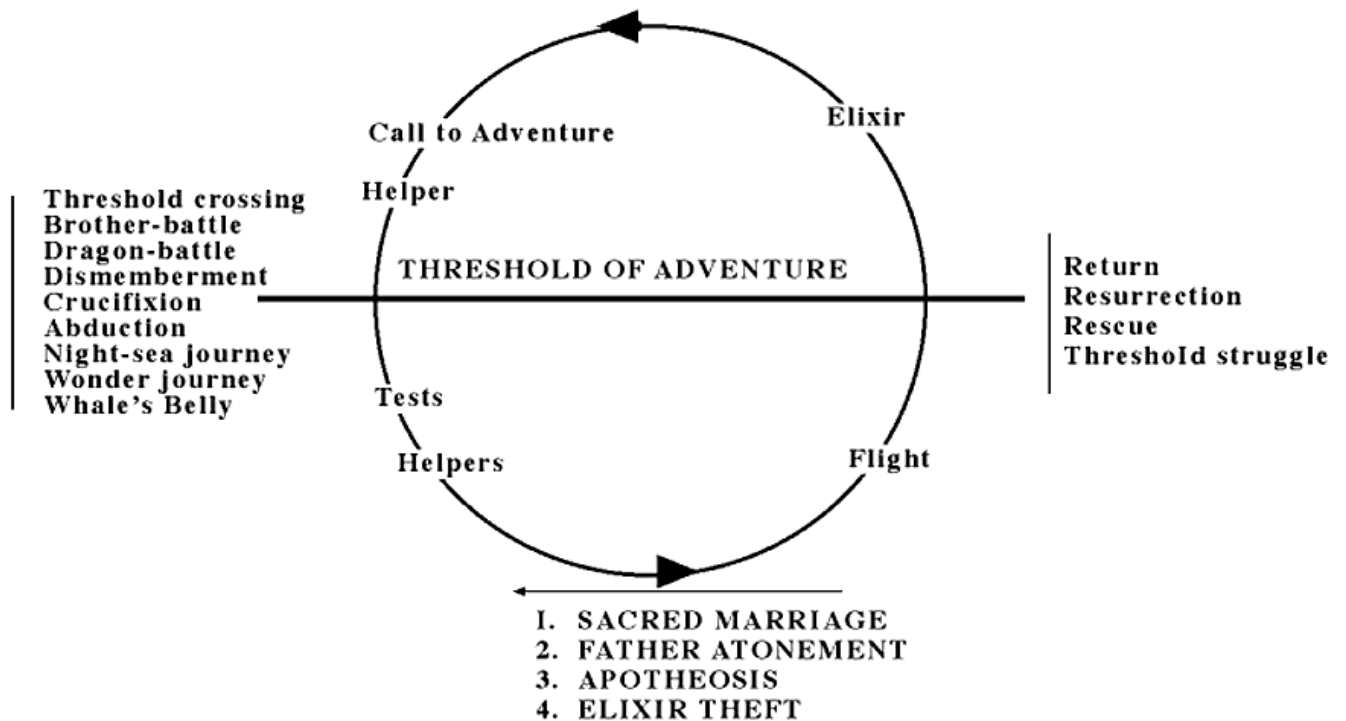


Story Structures

There is only one basic story structure: The hero

This book was used by Star Wars George Lucas and every scriptwriter afterwards especially the Matrix (but will not admit it) is essential reading for people who are designing games, stories, video an analysis of common plot lines mirroring our natural journey through life. Useful for personal self-awareness too. Very exciting and inspiring. MH

Campbell, J. (1949) The Hero With a Thousand Faces, Fontana.



Campbell, J believes we are all on a similar journey through life.

Where are you on the journey?

Joseph Campbell

The Hero With a Thousand Faces

Commentary of the accompanying diagram joseph.pct

The mythological hero, setting forth from his commonaday hut or castle, is lured, carried away, or else voluntarily proceeds, to the threshold of adventure. There he encounters a shadow presence that guards the passage. The hero may defeat or conciliate this power and go alive into the kingdom of the dark (from a choice of *brother-battle, dragon-battle; offering, charm*), or be slain by the opponent and descend in death (from a choice of *dismemberment, crucifixion*). Beyond the threshold, then, the hero journeys through a world of unfamiliar yet strangely intimate forces, some of which severely threaten him (*tests or name your own from current range of personal problems*), some of which give magical aid (*helpers - friend or partner, local guru, church, lecturer (no names!)*). When he arrives at the nadir of the mythological round, he undergoes a supreme ordeal and gains his reward. The triumph may be represented as the hero's union with the goddess-mother of the world (*sacred marriage*), his recognition by the father-creator (*father atonement*), his own divination (*apotheosis*), or again—if the powers have remained unfriendly to him— his theft of the boon he came to gain (*bride-theft, fire-theft*); intrinsically it is an expansion of consciousness and therewith of being (*illumination, transfiguration, freedom*). The final work is that of the return. If the powers have blessed the hero, he now sets forth under their protection (*emissary*); if not, he flees and is pursued (*transformation flight, obstacle flight*). At the return threshold the transcendental powers must remain behind; the hero re-emerges from the kingdom of dread (*return, resurrection*). The boon that he brings restores the world (*elixir*).

In other words a story of every movies, every story of everyone's life!