Joseph Campbell and *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*
Joseph Campbell

• Fascinated by Native American artifacts he saw as a child, Joseph Campbell became an author of comparative mythology. His work examined the functions of myth in cultures across the world and mythic figures in a wide range of literature. Bill Moyers conducted a six-part interview series with him in the 1980s, making him a household name. *The Hero with a Thousand Faces* remains his best-known work.
Part 1:
Departure
Chapter 1: In The Ordinary World

Where our hero begins, prior to the adventure. This is home… where our hero feels he belongs. It is safe, consistent, and boring. Here we first learn what type of person our hero is: his outlooks and abilities.
Chapter 2: The Call to Adventure

Something happens to interrupt the peaceful existence of the hero’s life. The hero may be called to action to serve a greater cause or leave in order to protect his home and loved ones.
No matter how eager the hero may have seemed earlier, he must initially refuse the call. This can be caused by a childhood love, family, safety and security, a really nifty tea set, etc. There must be something holding him back, even if to conquer it will mean facing his fears.
At a time when our hero needs guidance the most, a mentor appears to give him the thing he needs to undertake his quest. It might be a powerful item, advice, revelation, or courage and insight to undertake what must be done. This mentor is often an older teacher or a supernatural guide.
When the hero accepts his destiny and answers the call to adventure. This is most often described as crossing over from the world he knows to the world of the unknown. Whatever follows, he is fully committed, for now.
Part 2: Initiation
Naturally, outside his comfortable world of the “known” our hero is tested in body and mind. Often his courage is tested the most. He’ll make allies or new friends, and he will face new challenges and enemies as he builds up to his final objective. Here we see the hero grow and develop as he shows his true colors.
Also called the approach or the belly of the whale, where the hero faces a moment of doubt and/or defeat. Often a real or symbolic journey into darkness and danger, it is the hero’s final test before he is ready to face the last challenge.
This is the final challenge the hero must overcome in the darkness of the unknown. Here the hero must defeat some tangible enemy or overcome an internal struggle. To succeed, the hero must utilize what he learned on his journey and the innermost cave. He must also experience some form of death and rebirth. The risks are high; at the very least the hero must risk himself, and at the most he could lose everything he holds dear.
The hero has emerged victorious, proving all the stronger for it. Sometimes referred to as *Seizing the Sword*, our hero is bestowed with a reward for his victory, be it power, treasure, or knowledge. But there is little time to celebrate, for the hero’s journey has not yet ended, and the final challenge lies ahead.
Part 3: Return
Chapter 10: The Road Back

His journey through the unknown complete and his reward in hand, the hero must travel back to the ordinary world. This is the opposite of the call to adventure (a call to responsibility), where the hero must choose between his desires and the greater good.
This is often cited as the final climax of the story. Having returned to the world of the “known”, with his reward and experiences, the hero has one last enemy to conquer to win the day. This can be a tangible foe or an internal struggle to overcome. Much is at stake, and if he fails, others will suffer greatly.
Victorious, our hero returns home. His final reward may be literal or metaphoric: treasure, glory, confidence, true-love, etc. The world is again safe, and our hero is back where he belongs, but things will never be the same, for he is changed by his experiences and growth.
The End
WE'VE HAD OUR "INCITING INCIDENT" AND WE'RE ON THE "JOURNEY" SO IT SEEMS LIKE WE'LL BE HAVING A "CRISIS" ANY MINUTE NOW...

THIS QUEST WAS A LOT MORE FUN BEFORE YOU GOT THAT BOOK ON STORY STRUCTURE.