

Archetypes, or: I've Heard that Story Before — Project Instructions

In this unit, you will read and research a single archetype. An archetype is a character, plot, or object that recurs, repeats, or is imitated. You will discover that many cultures all over the world use certain archetypes again and again.

Annotated Bibliography: As you read, you will compile an annotated bibliography of the stories you read and the research you do related to the archetype. You will read and analyze:

📖 **FOUR** examples of the archetype from Ms. T's approved resources

- make sure you choose stories **from at least THREE regions** (Africa, Asia, Europe, Middle East, Oceania, North America, and South America)

📖 **TWO** research sources that explain or analyze the archetype: How/why does this type of story matter to people? What need does it satisfy? Why are there so many versions around the world and throughout human history? What can we learn from this story type?

📖 *No two students should have the same six sources.*

Each annotated bibliography entry should contain the following:

📖 A correctly formatted MLA citation, just as it would appear on a works cited page.

- [The OWL @ Purdue has awesome resources on MLA citation.](#)
- MoreNet creates citations for you — make sure you select MLA!

📖 ≥ 2 sentences **summarizing** the content of the source. What does the source say directly/explicitly?

📖 ≥ 2 sentences **evaluating** the quality of evidence in the source. To what extent is this a reliable and appropriate source for this topic? How can you tell?

📖 ≥ 2 sentences **reflecting on** what you've learned about the archetype and how you will use the source in your final project

📖 *for stories only:* make a claim about **theme** (central topic of story; must be expressed as a complete sentence and make some **universal claim** → You could start a theme claim with "And the moral of this story is..." Theme claims do

NOT mention characters, but rather explain what we learn about the human experience from the story. Ex for “The Three Little Pigs” → We must plan carefully, be prepared for challenges, and take care of others).

After writing all SIX entries, draft a 250-word (1 full page) synthesis:

1. What are the rules for your archetype? What are the essential elements, plot points, and/or characters?
2. Why do you think this archetype endures across culture, geography, and history? Why do so many people use this structure?
3. What do we (humans) learn from/get out of this archetype?
4. What does the archetype suggest about human nature?

Archetype Lesson: Your goal is to teach the class elements 1-4 above using details from the stories and research you read. You will record your presentation on FlipGrid and include citations throughout to give credit to sources for stories and research.

📖 Model 1: [TED Ed Lesson: Vampires: Folklore, fantasy, and fact – Michael Molina](#)

📖 Model 3: [TED Ed Lesson: What makes a hero? – Matthew Winkler](#)

This is not a group project. You will collaborate with students mastering the same archetype to discuss readings and build understanding, but the writing project and presentation will be completed *independently*. No two writing projects or presentations should be overly similar.

Essential elements in all projects:

Demonstrates a thorough understanding of what makes up the archetype. Breaks down the stories into parts and shares an overarching set of rules for the archetype.

Draws inferences about how/why the archetype matters.

Example: In the hero’s journey, a seemingly ordinary person is called from the mundane world to a world of adventure, crossing into an unknown place which contains obstacles and enemies, aided by friends and mentors until they have to face a certain challenge alone. The hero becomes the master of two worlds and

celebrates their victory. This story usually focuses more on the individual than the team/family. We see this pattern in many stories, probably because it gives us hope that we, too, can overcome struggles.

Research: Chooses, understands, and cites reliable sources with accuracy, demonstrating academic integrity.

Strong presentation: The audience of peers and teacher gain a clear understanding of the rules of the archetype. The lesson is well-organized, accessible, engaging, and appropriate in length. Content guides presentation style.