

The Voyage of Life, Thomas Cole (1840)

Thomas Cole was an American landscape painter born in England in 1801. His four-part series, *The Voyage of Life*, was one of his most critically-acclaimed accomplishments. The monumental paintings, almost five feet tall and seven feet wide each, were taken on tour around the United States to educate the American public.

Childhood

Steps 1-4 of the Hero Journey Archetype

Directions: How does the painting fit the hero journey? In each box, explain in writing how the painting addresses each characteristic of the hero and his journey. Then, draw a line from the box to the part of the painting that proves the connection. In addition to objects and people represented, consider composition, color choice, use of light, the direction the boat is moving, and how your eye moves across the painting.



How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

Noble birth and/or orphan

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

Mentor / Guide

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

How does the artist show inexperience?

How does the artist show the separation from home?

How does the artist show the idea that each hero journey is actually a journey of self-discovery?

What new characteristic of the hero or his journey (not mentioned in our notes) does the painting portray?

What other new characteristic of the hero or his journey (not mentioned in our notes) does the painting portray?

How does the artist show the idea that each hero journey is actually a journey of self-discovery?

Adolescence

Steps 5-7 of the Hero Journey Archetype

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

Directions: How does the painting fit the hero journey? In each box, explain in writing how the painting addresses each characteristic of the hero and his journey. Then, draw a line from the box to the part of the painting that proves the connection. In addition to objects and people represented, consider composition, color choice, use of light, the direction the boat is moving, and how your eye moves across the painting.

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

How does the artist show establishment of the quest?

How does the artist show roaming travel?

How does the artist show sufficient motivation?

How does the artist show random adventures?



How does the artist show that each hero journey is actually a mental journey of self-discovery?

What new rule to the hero or his journey (not mentioned in our notes) does the painting portray?

What other new rule to the hero or his journey (not mentioned in our notes) does the painting portray?

How does the artist show that each hero journey is actually a mental journey of self-discovery?

Manhood

Steps 8-9 of the Hero Journey Archetype

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

Directions: How does the painting fit the hero journey? In each box, explain in writing how the painting addresses each characteristic of the hero and his journey. Then, draw a line from the box to the part of the painting that proves the connection. In addition to objects and people represented, consider composition, color choice, use of light, the direction the boat is moving, and how your eye moves across the painting.

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

How does the artist show that we have crossed into *the underworld* or *a supernatural world*?

How does the artist show *injury, symbolic death, or emotional low-point*?

How does the artist show *disappearance of the mentor with lingering wisdom*?

How does the artist show that *the mental journey becomes more important*?



How does the artist show a *triumph against a serious obstacle*?

What new rule to the hero or his journey (not mentioned in our notes) does the painting portray?

What other new rule to the hero or his journey (not mentioned in our notes) does the painting portray?

How does the artist show that each hero journey is *actually* a *mental journey of self-discovery*?

Old Age

Steps 10-14 of the Hero Journey Archetype

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

Directions: How does the painting fit the hero journey? In each box, explain in writing how the painting addresses each characteristic of the hero and his journey. Then, draw a line from the box to the part of the painting that proves the connection. In addition to objects and people represented, consider composition, color choice, use of light, the direction the boat is moving, and how your eye moves across the painting.

How does the artist show this characteristic of the hero?:

How does the artist show that the hero gains spiritual knowledge?

How does the artist show the leap of faith?

How does the artist show rebirth, renewal, or resurrection?

How does the artist show the triumph?



How does the artist show the return home?

What new rule to the hero or his journey (not mentioned in our notes) does the painting portray?

What other new rule to the hero or his journey (not mentioned in our notes) does the painting portray?

How does the artist show that each hero journey is actually a mental journey of self-discovery?