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Chapter 3 - The Hero with a Thousand Faces - Quiz

1. What led Joseph Campbell's interest in comparative mythology?

Joseph Campbell's interest sparked in 1904 when his father took him to the Natural History Museum where he was introduced to Native American culture. Because of this, he found a passion for myth and storytelling.

2. How did Joseph Campbell become the world's foremost scholar on mythology? How did the Great Depression benefit his education?

Joseph Campbell became the world's foremost scholar on mythology by reading nine hours a day for five years, even though he was living in a rented shack and had no money. The Great Depression benefitted his education by forcing him to continue learning and reading because he had no job at the time.

3. What is considered to be Joseph Campbell's most important teaching?

Joseph Campbell's most famous teaching is considered to be "The Power of Myth". It is about the importance of "following your bliss".

4. What is the primary factor that decides what types of stories a storyteller will decide to tell? What are storytellers "a product" of?

The way a storyteller decides why type of stories to tell is how they tell them. If a storyteller always turns the idea into something to scare the audience, they should be writing horror. If they always try to make the audience cry, they should write dramas. Storytellers are a "product" of the culture you were born into, the class structure, the period, and race.

5. Describe why myths are important. What are “stories”, as defined in the context of this chapter.

Myths are so important because they are told to people through generations and cultures across the world. They have been there to guide us along through our toughest trials.

Stories are the collected dreams of the millions of myth makers who have lived throughout all of history, and chose to share their visions with humanity.

6. Explain how you will discover your own myths.

The best way to discovering your own myths and finding what storied to tell is studying the history behind it all. It is important to know the history of what you are doing. You need to study the history of what you want to do. If you want to write horror films, study how they began and how they work currently.

7. Why is it important to understand the history of your art?

It is important to understand the history of your art because it will help you understand what you're really doing. Yes you will learn about film if you only look at what is currently used, but your knowledge of film will grow and help you so much more if you find out how it started, what worked, and where it has come.

8. Describe the difference between an antihero and an antivillain.

An antihero is a person who blurs the distinction between hero and villain. Also, an antihero will do good usually for a selfish cause while an anti villain is someone who does bad things, like going against the law, for a noble cause. Antivillians can never be pure evil. They always have something tying them to good.

9. As a storyteller, following countless other storytellers before you, how do you plan on keeping your story FRESH and UNIQUE? How do you achieve freedom from the “monomyth”?

I plan on keeping my stories fresh and unique by not fully copying any structures perfectly, but using my own spin and creativity to make those stories with the structures new and innovative.

You achieve freedom from the “monomyth” by, like stated above, not sticking so close to a structure to where you eliminate your own creativity to stay side by side with other’s stories/structures. You can find freedom by putting your own spin and creativity on stories and making them completely different, even if the idea is from an already known story.

10. Explain what you think is the best way to utilize the “hero’s journey” without it becoming stale and predictable.

The best way to utilize the “hero’s journey” without it becoming stale and predictable is to use the creativity and stories that come out of our own psyche to make a story that is different. It will still have a hero’s journey” structure like most films, but it will not be the same if you use your experiences in life, your upbringing, your cultural identification, and your class and nurturing. No one has had the same life, so if you base your stories off of your own personal experiences, there is no way you can be the same as other stories.

11. What separated real storytellers from those who just want to play storyteller? What is the most important trait you must possess to achieve your goals?

What separates real storytellers from those who just want to play storyteller is creative discipline. Everyone has movie ideas and story ideas, but the difference between to real storytellers and and just the playing storytellers is, the real one will sit down and put those words on paper to create it. “If you cannot make yourself sit down for 6-8 hours a day since days a week to get your story on paper, the industry is not for you”.