

ADA 101: Heroes Unit

Types of Heroes

The Antihero

The antihero often has flaws and human frailties the traditional hero does not. The antihero often rejects the traditional values of hero and in many ways are the polar opposite of the hero. **Examples:** Batman, Shakespeare's Falstaff, protagonists of the plays of Samuel Beckett.

The Byronic Hero

These heroes are characterized as being "mad, bad and dangerous to know." They are often sophisticated and cunning, attractive and seductive, with a troubled past.

Examples: Edward Cullen from *Twilight*, Heathcliff from *Wuthering Heights*.

The Culture Hero

Culture heroes are mythological heroes specific to cultural, ethnic, religious or racial groups who change the world through important discoveries. **Examples:** the Coyote in First Nations stories, Arjuna in Indian mythology, Apanugaak in Inuit mythology.

The Epic Hero

Epic heroes are the protagonists of many legends and myths. The hero embarks on a quest, faces and defeats foes along the way, and is rewarded in the end. **Examples:** Beowulf, Rama, Perseus, King Arthur.

The Folk Hero

Folk heroes can be fictional or real, and are ordinary people who become heroic due to life-altering circumstances. Folk heroes make a big impact on public consciousness and are often idealized in stories and film. **Examples:** Louis Riel, Geronimo, Che Guevara.

The Heroine/Female Warrior

Female heroines have been portrayed in history and popular culture as women with strong personalities and a drive to pursue their goals, even if it means taking on tasks traditionally associated with male heroes. **Examples:** Wonder Woman, the Amazons, Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

The Reluctant Hero

The reluctant hero is often an ordinary person thrust into heroic situations or a heroic person who avoids the initial call to action. **Examples:** Han Solo in *Star Wars*, Neo in *The Matrix*.

The Superhero

Superheroes are fictional characters with superhuman strengths and powers who are dedicated to protecting the public. **Examples:** Superman, the X-Men, Sailor Moon.

The Tragic Hero

The tragic hero is the protagonist of many tragic plays. The tragic hero possesses a tragic flaw that results in him making an error in judgment that eventually leads to his downfall. **Examples:** Oedipus from *Oedipus Rex*, Othello from Shakespeare's *Othello*.

