

# Vogler's Monomyth: Typical Hero

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In Denis Tedlocks, Popol Vuh, the specific features of heroism expressed in the story are Knowledge, and intellect, which prove to be significantly more important than gaining glory through physical courage and strength. The two main characters, Xbalanque and Hunaphu are the children of One and Seven Hunaphu who end up dying through their defeat by the lords of Xibalba named One and Seven Death. Xbalanque and Hunaphu then use deceitful actions in order to attain their ideal goal of defeating One and Seven Death. Xbalanque and Hunaphu are the protagonists who use their intellect in the internal battle which enable them to achieve what they are striving for. This format of the hero's journey portrayed by Christopher Vogler's *The Writer's Journey*, states that a hero is someone who is willing to sacrifice his own needs on behalf of others, and perhaps even his own life (Vogler 32). Xbalanque and Hunaphu's heroic journey contradicts what Vogler implies through his explanation of what a hero is while on the other hand, fitting perfectly in the heroic journeys of [King Arthur](#) in Malory's *Sir Thomas Le Morte Darthur*, and Beowulf in Seamus Heaney's *Beowulf*, both who end up losing more than they gained by the misuse of power and pride. The meaning conveyed by the monomyth in Popol Vuh, is affected by the combination of the trickster and hero archetypes. By using trickery, Xbalanque and Hunaphu go against the heroic journey as defined by Vogler, and in doing so, succeed in their defeat of One and Seven Death.

King Arthur Pendragon, the ruler of Camelot, is a rash and naïve ruler who consequently, gets swept up by events that end up out of his control. Arthur is a king who has a strong will for combat that is completely unrestrained. Duri...

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...n of the aftermath. Too much of one thing always leads to destruction, like in Beowulf and Le Morte Darthur where the balance between life and death was nonexistent. The balance that the two brothers established between life and death in Popol Vuh was due to their proper use of knowledge and wit, along with blending the Trickster and Hero archetypes. Beowulf and King Arthur failed in being able to distinguish between right and wrong and simply used their fighting ability to try to solve the conflict, as the typical hero would do according to the monomyth. Yes, the use of those two archetypes together was contrary to Vogler's monomyth, but the result enabled everyone safety and order, so there could be peace and tranquility.

#### Works Cited

Denis Tedlock Popol Vuh, Christopher Vogler's the writers journey, Malory's Sir Thomas Le Morte Darthur, Seamus Heaney's Beowulf

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