

HEROIC PATTERN CHART

	PERSEUS	THESEUS	HERCULES	KING ARTHUR
PROPHECY	Will kill grandfather, Acrisius	Oracle to Aegeus not to open wineskin	Tiresias confirms that Father is Zeus, and that Heracles will be immortal	Would become King of England
UNUSUAL BIRTH/ CONCEPTION	Zeus as liquid stream of gold	Aegeus drunk & Poseidon also involved	Zeus stops the sun for three days to sleep with Alcmene, disguised as her husband	Uther visits Ygraine disguised as her husband; at birth, handed over to Merlin
PRECOCIOUS CHILDHOOD	Sent to sea in a chest/ rescued by Zeus/ Foster-child	Raised by single mom; attacks Hercules' lion skin at 7 years old	Super-strong: survives being abandoned in a field; kills 2 snakes in his crib	Raised by a foster family (Ector) in Wales
CALL TO ADVENTURE	King Polydectes' challenge to get him out of the way	At 15, mother reveals his true identity; he takes on his father's gifts and heads to Athens to claim his birthright.	Eurystheus calls on him to complete his Labours. (Initial refusal)	Pulls sword from stone at a tournament
QUEST	The Medusa's head	Free the Athenians from the curse of the Minotaur	10-12 Labours (two didn't count)	Create the Round Table—unify England; ultimately they embark on the Quest for the Holy Grail
HELPERS/GIFTS	Athena & Hermes in disguise; objects: winged sandals, leather bag, helmet of invisibility; sickle-shaped sword	Father leaves sword & pair of sandals; Ariadne gives him ball of thread to get out of the Labyrinth	Childhood lessons by experts (bow, wrestling, etc.) Iolaus helps with the Hydra; Athena's rattles, etc.	Merlin's magic; All his knights
JOURNEY TO UNDERWORLD/ CHARACTER FLAW	Journey west over the dark sea to Medusa's land; No real flaw	Journeying underwater to meet Poseidon; journeying into the Labyrinth, etc. Flaw: abandons Ariadne Forgets to change sail	Journey to underworld to get Cerberus (3-headed dog). Flaw: quick temper—bad habit of killing people by accident	All the times he journeys into deep forests; at the end of his life: journey across water to Avalon; Flaw: accidental incest (begets Mordred)
RETURN/ REINTEGRATION	Rescues Andromeda on the way home; defeats King Polydectes	Becomes King of Athens	Establishes the Olympic games; Becomes immortal after being burned to death	Camelot: creates Round Table.