*“A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.”*  —Joseph Campbell

Hero’s Journey syllabus

**INSTRUCTOR** mrs.ramage • **E-MAIL** [hramage@scappoose.k12.or.us](mailto:hramage@scappoose.k12.or.us)

**ROOM** A-4 • **PREP** period 1• **WEB** mrsramage.weebly.com

of a culture’s values. Understanding societal values and a “hero’s” personal beliefs can help you confirm your own values and beliefs, therefore, strengthening your own sense of conviction and integrity.

*“Heroes are shaped by society, and in turn, change the society in which they exist.” Heroes of History*

course map:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| course concept | The Journey Begins |
| quotation | *“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming.” obstacles.”*   **Christopher Reeve** |
| essential question(S) | What is a hero?  What motivates people to change? |
| focus texts | * *Campbell, Joseph. The Hero with a Thousand Faces (excerpts)* * *Dashner, James, The Maze Runner* * *Stone, Oliver. “Where I Find My Heroes”* |
| FILM | * Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope. Dir. George Lucas. 2oth Century Fox, 1977. * The Matrix. *(excerpts)* Dir. [The Wachowski Brothers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wachowskis). Warner, 1999. * The Maze Runner Dir. 20th Century Fox, 2013. |
| composition | Argumentative Essay  Expository Essay  Compare & Contrast Essay |
| ccss | RL.3, RL.5, RL.7, RL.10, W1, W2, W5, W7 |

course description:

What do Harry Potter, Katniss Everdeen and Frodo Baggins all have in common? Scholars say that they are all heroes from variations of the exact same story. They are called upon to venture forth from the everyday world into supernatural wonder where they must battle evil forces that will determine the future state of the entire world. They are also teenagers…

In this course, we will examine Joseph Campbell’s “Hero’s Journey” and how it applies to teenage heroes and heroines. We will study both fiction and nonfiction texts in addition to writing narrative expository, and argumentative essays. This year, attention will be given to author purpose and the strategies author’s employ in their writing.

course summary:

In this section of *The Hero’s Journey*, we will learn about the *monomyth* as described by Joseph Campbell in his seminal work The Hero With a Thousand Faces. where he outlines the *monomyth* and describes the stages of the hero’s journey.

Then, we will look at how Campbell's theory was consciously and unconsciously applied to cinema by famous artists such as George Lucas in the film Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope and The Wachowki Brothers in The Matrix.

We will end the course by reading James Dashner’s The Maze Runner, a [post apocalyptic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-apocalyptic) science fiction story about a boy who wakes up, trapped in a massive maze with no memory of the outside world.

Heroes are idealized figures of society; they are mythological figures of strength, wisdom, and courage. Thus, they are the best representations