

# Young Adult Heroes



# Young Adult Hero

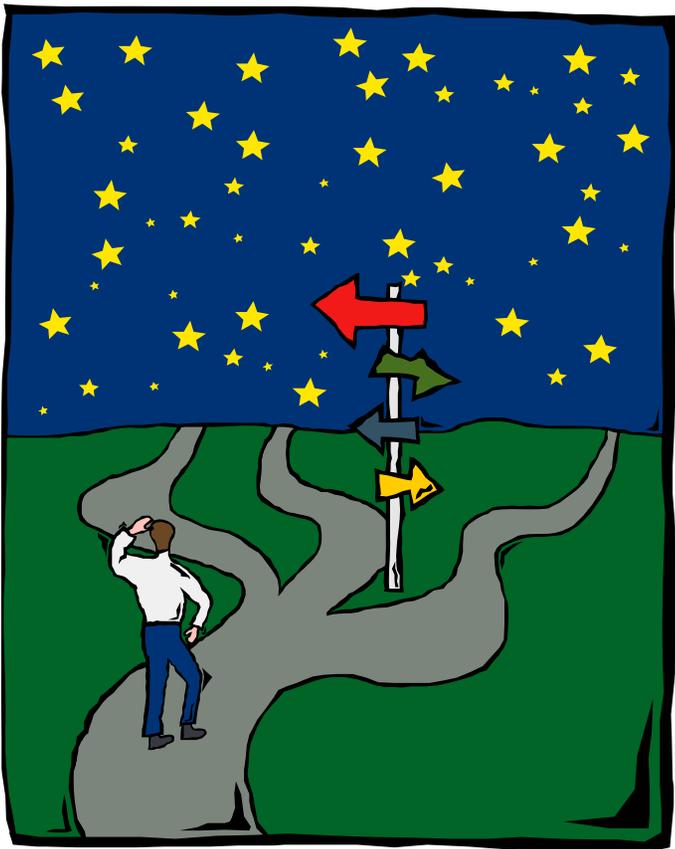
- The y/a hero does not leap buildings in a single bound.
- The y/a hero is an ordinary person in an extraordinary situation.



# The Questions

- Is the y/a hero a free agent, or are his or her actions governed by external forces against which the hero has no recourse?
- Is the hero a puppet on a cosmic string?
- Think about Winnie in *Tuck Everlasting*. Think about Joey in *A Long Way From Chicago*.

# What is a Proper Hero



- Beowulf
- The youngest or littlest?
- The Tin Soldier dying for his love?
- The character hastily tried and punished without a chance to protest?

# Y/A Heroes

- Tend to be wholly human
  - With the flaws
  - With the weaknesses
- Tend to muddle through
  - Holding on and not giving up

# Examples

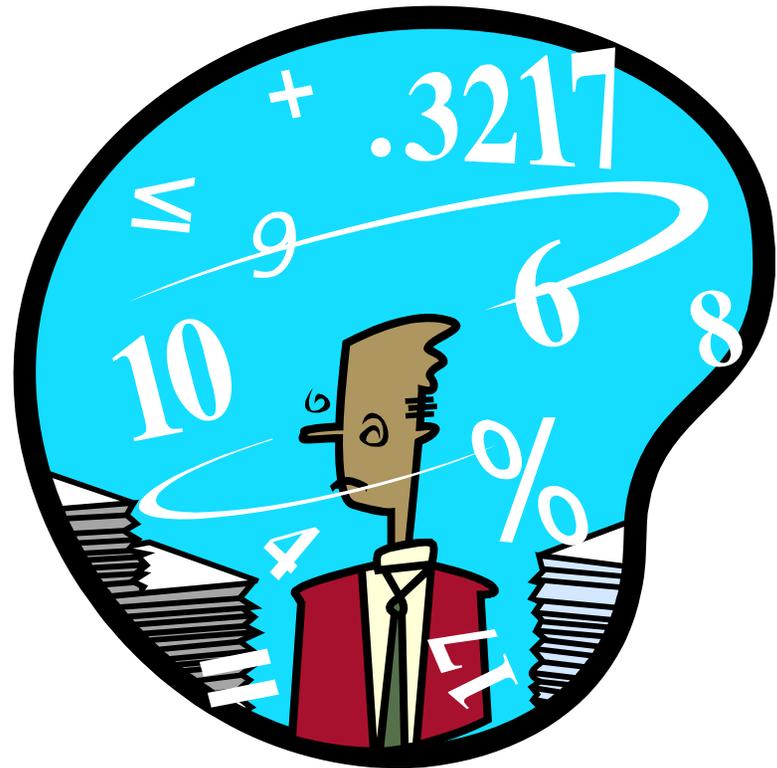
- Bunyon's Christian
  - Cormier's Jerry
  - Tolkein's Bilbo
  - Sachar's Stanley
  - Cushman's Birdy
  - And many more
- What examples can you think of?

# The Ethical Hero

- Not in the sense of a culture's moral code
- One who dares to fly in the face of some outworn cultural norm according to some inner sense of right.
- Only when conquered self can the hero move on.

# To Conquer Self

- Learn to control one's actions
- Learn to control one's temper
- Learn to control one's tongue
- Learn the act of discretion



# Heroes in Fantasy

- Ventures forth to a region of supernatural forces
- Encounters fabulous forces
- Participates in decisive victory
- Returns from the mysterious adventure with the power to bestow favor on fellow man.

# Female Heroes



- 1962 *A Wrinkle in Time*—Meg Murry
  - Hero until she matures and marries
  - Does motherhood make a female hero less heroic?

# More Female Heroes

- 1970s rise in female heroes
- Tomboyish
- Heroic for a season
- Beg for adventures
- Learned their place in life.
- Recently
  - Increase in number of females
  - More timid than males
  - Victim of society or men
- Think: *The Pelican Brief*, Disney movies