Innocence as a Super-power: Little Girls on the Hero’s Journey

David Emerson, Independent Scholar

Abstract
A study of the power of innocence, particularly of innocent girl characters, and how innocence functions in their stories. Dorothy of Oz, Lucy of Narnia, and Chihiro from Miyazaki’s Spirited Away are compared to discover just how their innocence works as their greatest strength.

Recommended Citation

A hero, a journey, some conflicts to muck it all up, a reward, and the hero returning home and everybody applauding his or her swag? Yeah, scholar Joseph Campbell noticed first—in 1949. He wrote The Hero with a Thousand Faces, in which he outlined the 17 stages of a mythological hero’s journey. About half a century later, Christopher Vogler condensed those stages down to 12 in an attempt to show Hollywood how every story ever written should—and, uh, does—follow Campbell’s pattern. We’re working with those 12 stages, so take a look.

(P.S. Want more? We have an entire Online Cours... Ofelia herself is transported into the fairy realm, even as her real-world body bleeds out on the ground of the labyrinth. BACK. NEXT.)