

from The Epic of Gilgamesh
Literary Analysis: Archetype—The Hero’s Quest

An **archetype** is a basic plot, character, symbol, or idea that recurs in the literature of many cultures. An example is **the hero’s quest**, a plot in which an extraordinary person goes on a difficult journey to find or do something important. For example, in the ancient Greek epic the *Odyssey*, the hero is on a quest to find his way home after years of fighting the Trojan War. In Arthurian legends, King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table go on a quest to find the Holy Grail.

DIRECTIONS: Use this diagram to analyze the hero’s quest described in “The Story of the Flood” in The Epic of Gilgamesh.

Outcome:

Steps taken to reach goal:

Purpose to quest:

Hero:
