

# THE EPIC HERO CYCLE

Element	Movie Examples	The Odyssey Example(s)
The main character is a hero, who often possesses supernatural abilities or qualities	Frodo – he is unexpectedly brave for a hobbit  Dorothy Gale – she is unexpectedly brave for a young girl  <b>Luke Skywalker – he learns to harness the Force for good</b>  Indiana Jones – he is strong, brave, cunning, and intelligent  Peter Venkman – he is charming, quick-witted, and smart	
The hero is charged with a quest	Take the ring to be destroyed before the world as he knows it is destroyed  Return home  <b>Conquer the dark side of the force so the galaxy won't be destroyed</b>  Escape the Temple of Doom with the Sankara stones; save the children who have been taken from their village  Rid New York City of Gozer	
The hero is tested, often to prove the worthiness of himself (or herself) and his/her quest	A Warg attack, Gollum, etc.  Repeatedly by the Wicked Witch  <b>Jabba the Hut, the stormtroopers, Medusa, Mordred</b>  Mola Ram, the leader of a cult, wants to rule the world with the five Sankara stones; Indy must defeat him  His girlfriend, Dana, becomes the host of Zuul; Gozer is trying to open the gates of hell on earth	
The presence of numerous mythical beings, magical and helpful animals, and human helpers and companions	Elves, Dwarves, Ents, Wizards, Orcs  Munchkins, The Scarecrow, The Tin Man, The Cowardly Lion, the Wizard of Oz  <b>Ewoks, Yoda, C3PO, R2-D2, Princess Leia, Han Solo</b>  Willie and Short Round  Slimer, other ghosts, Zuul, Gozer	
The hero's travels take him/her to a	Middle Earth	