

Vladimir Propp *Morphology of the Folktale* (1928)

Characters

1. VILLAIN—evil character who creates struggles for hero
2. DISPATCHER—character who sends the hero off, e.g. father of princess
3. HELPER—typically magical entity that helps hero
4. PRINCESS/PRIZE—hero deserves her throughout the story but unable to marry her because of some evil or injustice, perhaps work of villain; hero's journey is often ended when he marries the princess, which constitutes villain's defeat
5. DONOR—character who prepares hero or gives hero some magical object, sometimes after testing him
6. HERO—character who reacts to dispatcher and donor, thwarts villain, weds princess
7. FALSE HERO—character who takes credit for hero's actions/tries to marry princess

Functions

1. ABSENTATION.
2. INTERDICTION.
3. VIOLATION of INTERDICTION.
4. RECONNAISSANCE.
5. DELIVERY.
6. TRICKERY.
7. COMPLICITY.
8. VILLAINY.
9. MEDIATION.
10. BEGINNING COUNTERACTION.
11. DEPARTURE.
12. FIRST FUNCTION OF THE DONOR.
13. HERO'S REACTION.
14. RECEIPT OF A MAGICAL AGENT.
15. GUIDANCE.
16. STRUGGLE.
17. BRANDING.
18. VICTORY.
19. LIQUIDATION.
20. RETURN.
21. PURSUIT.
22. RESCUE.
23. UNRECOGNIZED ARRIVAL.
24. UNFOUNDED CLAIMS.
25. DIFFICULT TASK.
26. SOLUTION.
27. RECOGNITION.
28. EXPOSURE.
29. TRANSFIGURATION.
30. PUNISHMENT.
31. WEDDING.