

Alexis Heit

The Child Hero's Journey in Children's Literature

The child hero of children's fantasy literature follows a model based on the child protagonist becoming a hero. This exploration of the process of the child hero's development, distinguishing the child hero found in children's fantasy literature from the child protagonist in other children's literature. This research pursues the opportunity for such comparative criticism through the analysis of the structural features of fantasy for children by focusing on the nature of the child hero. Particular importance placed on the process by which the child hero of children's fantasy develops through actions and experiences. My research aim is to present and define a map of this process, based on the analysis of a wide range of children's fantasy texts.

Alexis is a Ph.D. research student at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom who has also completed a Masters degree in English Literature and Criticism at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelors degree in English and Composition from the Pennsylvania State University in the United States. She is currently involved in research on J.R.R. Tolkien and fantasy literature influences on Children's Literature as a second Masters degree at the Mythgard Institute. Her PhD thesis examines Children's Literature and its many influences as well as the continued development of her model for further in-depth analysis of Children's Literature.



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