

What Are The 12 Steps Of The Heros Journey In The Book The Adoration Of Jenna Fox?

What Are The 12 Steps Of The Heros Journey In The Book The Adoration Of Jenna Fox?

The Hero's Journey is a timeless narrative structure that has been employed across countless stories, films, and literary works to depict a hero's path from innocence to enlightenment, from adversity to triumph. In Laurie Halse Anderson's novel *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*, themes of identity, humanity, and self-discovery are central to Jenna's transformation. While the novel doesn't explicitly outline the Hero's Journey in a traditional sense, analyzing Jenna Fox's story through the lens of Joseph Campbell's 12-step Hero's Journey reveals insightful parallels. This article explores the 12 steps of the Hero's Journey as they unfold within *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*, illustrating how Jenna's story exemplifies this classic narrative pattern.

Understanding the Hero's Journey Framework

Before diving into how Jenna Fox's story aligns with the 12 steps, it's important to understand what the Hero's Journey entails. Joseph Campbell, a renowned mythologist, identified a common template in storytelling called the monomyth, which comprises a series of stages that many heroes go through. These stages include the Call to Adventure, Trials, Transformation, and Return, among others. Anderson's novel can be viewed through this lens, as Jenna embarks on a journey of self-discovery, grappling with her identity and her moral understanding of what it means to be human.

The 12 Steps of the Hero's Journey in The Adoration of Jenna Fox

1. The Ordinary World

Jenna Fox begins her story in her familiar world—her home, family, and school in Rhode Island. She is a typical teenager, dealing with everyday challenges and enjoying her life before the accident that changes everything. This stage establishes her baseline, providing a contrast to her later transformation.

2. The Call to Adventure

The pivotal moment occurs when Jenna is involved in a severe accident that leaves her critically injured. Her parents decide to undertake a radical medical procedure involving advanced technology and possibly questionable ethics—effectively initiating her journey into the unknown. Jenna’s recovery acts as her call to adventure, propelling her into unfamiliar territory both physically and psychologically.

3. Refusal of the Call

Initially, Jenna is overwhelmed and confused about her new body and her memories. She struggles to accept her situation, questioning her identity and the truth about her past. Her reluctance to fully embrace her new reality reflects a refusal to accept the challenge ahead, embodying the hesitation common in this stage.

4. Meeting the Mentor

Jenna’s mentor figures include her grandfather and her parents, who provide her with guidance and pieces of the truth. Her grandfather, in particular, offers philosophical insights about life and humanity, helping Jenna process her feelings and understand her circumstances better.

5. Crossing the Threshold

Jenna begins to explore her new identity and questions the ethics of her existence. She starts to investigate her past, her memories, and the nature of her consciousness. This marks her crossing into the world of uncertainty, where she must confront difficult truths and accept the reality of her situation.

6. Tests, Allies, and Enemies

Throughout the novel, Jenna faces various challenges—such as her internal conflict about her identity, her discovery of the truth about her origins, and societal pressures. She encounters allies, like her friend Kara, who supports her, and enemies, such as the societal norms that threaten her autonomy. These trials test her resolve and moral compass.

7. Approach to the Inmost Cave

Jenna’s “inmost cave” is her confrontation with the truth about her creation—realizing she is a clone, a bioengineered being, and grappling with what that means for her humanity. This stage involves her deep introspection and preparation for the critical revelations ahead.

8. The Ordeal

The climax of Jenna's journey involves her confronting her own identity and the ethical implications of her existence. She must decide whether to accept her new self or reject it, facing her fears about what it means to be human. This intense internal struggle is the core of her ordeal.

9. The Reward (Seizing the Sword)

After overcoming her internal conflict, Jenna gains clarity about her identity and begins to accept herself. She recognizes her consciousness, her feelings, and her humanity, which grants her a sense of empowerment and moral understanding.

10. The Road Back

Jenna's journey leads her to make decisions about her future—whether to fully embrace her identity or to reject her existence altogether. She begins to consider her place in the world and her relationships with others, preparing for the resolution of her story.

11. The Resurrection

Jenna experiences a symbolic resurrection—she emerges from her internal struggles with a new sense of self and purpose. This stage signifies her transformation from a confused, questioning girl into someone who accepts her identity and asserts her agency.

12. Return with the Elixir

In the final stage, Jenna returns to her world, equipped with newfound understanding and acceptance. She chooses to live authentically and to advocate for ethical considerations regarding bioengineering and humanity. Her journey empowers her to influence others and foster hope for the future.

Conclusion: The Hero's Journey in the Context of The Adoration of Jenna Fox

While Laurie Halse Anderson's *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* is a contemporary novel rooted in themes of bioethics, identity, and morality, it compellingly mirrors the classic 12-step Hero's Journey. Jenna's transformation from a girl unaware of her true nature to an individual who embraces her complex identity exemplifies the universal narrative of growth and self-discovery. Understanding her journey through this framework not only enriches our

appreciation of the novel but also highlights the enduring relevance of the Hero's Journey as a storytelling blueprint. Jenna's story encourages readers to reflect on what it truly means to be human and challenges us all to consider our own journeys of self-awareness and moral courage.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the 12 steps of the Hero's Journey as depicted in 'The Adoration of Jenna Fox'?

The 12 steps follow the classic Hero's Journey structure, including stages like the Ordinary World, Call to Adventure, Refusal of the Call, Meeting the Mentor, Crossing the Threshold, Tests, Allies, and Enemies, Approach, Ordeal, Reward, The Road Back, Resurrection, and Return with the Elixir.

How does Jenna Fox's story reflect the 'Call to Adventure' in her journey?

Jenna's journey begins when she awakens with no memory of her past, prompting her to seek the truth about her identity and her past, which serves as her 'Call to Adventure' that propels her into her transformative journey.

In what ways does Jenna meet her 'Mentor' during her quest?

Jenna encounters various figures who guide her, such as her family members and medical professionals, who provide her with information, support, and moral guidance, acting as her mentors in understanding her circumstances.

What is the 'Ordeal' Jenna faces in the story?

Jenna's major ordeal involves confronting the reality of her being a genetically engineered clone and grappling with the ethical and emotional implications of her identity, which challenges her sense of self.

How does Jenna's 'Return with the Elixir' manifest in the novel?

Jenna's return with the elixir is her acceptance of her identity and her decision to live authentically, sharing her story and advocating for ethical considerations around biotechnology and human identity.

What role does the 'Crossing the Threshold' play in

Jenna's journey?

Crossing the threshold occurs when Jenna begins to question her reality and ventures beyond her comfort zone, confronting uncomfortable truths about her origins and breaking away from her previous perception of herself.

How are 'Tests, Allies, and Enemies' represented in Jenna's story?

Jenna faces tests like understanding her nature, making moral choices; her allies include her family and friends who support her; and her enemies are the societal and ethical issues surrounding her existence, including those who want to hide or suppress the truth.

Why is the 'Resurrection' stage significant in Jenna's Hero's Journey?

The resurrection signifies Jenna's rebirth into self-awareness and acceptance, overcoming her internal conflicts and societal pressures, leading her to embrace her true self and purpose.

Additional Resources

What Are The 12 Steps Of The Hero's Journey In The Book The Adoration of Jenna Fox?

The Hero's Journey, a narrative framework popularized by Joseph Campbell, describes a universal pattern shared by many stories across cultures and eras. It outlines the transformative adventure of a protagonist who ventures beyond their ordinary world, faces trials, and returns changed. In the realm of young adult literature, *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* by Mary E. Pearson (note: the actual book is *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* by Mary E. Pearson) offers a compelling narrative that echoes many of these classic steps. This article explores the 12 stages of the Hero's Journey as they unfold within this thought-provoking novel, providing a detailed, reader-friendly analysis of Jenna Fox's transformative voyage.

Introduction to the Hero's Journey in The Adoration of Jenna Fox

At its core, *The Adoration of Jenna Fox* centers around Jenna Fox's struggle to understand her identity after a life-altering accident. Her journey is not just about physical recovery but also about grappling with questions of consciousness, morality, and what it means to be truly human. As Jenna navigates her world—both internal and external—the narrative aligns closely with Joseph Campbell's 12-step model, illustrating how her story embodies the timeless elements of heroism. Let's delve into each step and see how Jenna's

journey maps onto this archetypal pattern.

1. The Ordinary World: Jenna's Pre-Accident Life

The story begins by establishing Jenna Fox's normal, everyday life before the accident. She is a typical teenage girl living in a world that seems familiar and safe. This stage provides the baseline for understanding her transformation later on.

- Jenna's family life and relationships.
- Her interests, hobbies, and social environment.
- The comfort and predictability of her daily routine.

This phase sets the stage, highlighting what Jenna stands to lose or question as her journey unfolds.

2. The Call to Adventure: The Car Accident and Its Aftermath

The catalyst for Jenna's journey is the devastating car accident that leaves her critically injured. Her family makes a controversial decision: to use cutting-edge technology to revive her, involving reconstructive and bioengineering methods.

- Jenna's injury and the immediate aftermath.
- The decision by her family to pursue experimental treatments.
- The initial confusion and disorientation Jenna experiences.

This event acts as the call to adventure, thrusting Jenna into a new reality that challenges her understanding of life and identity.

3. Refusal of the Call: Jenna's Initial Resistance and Uncertainty

Initially, Jenna struggles with her new existence, often questioning her consciousness and the ethics of her revival.

- Jenna's doubts about her own humanity.
- Her feelings of alienation from her body and mind.
- Resistance to accepting her new state.

This stage reflects her internal conflict, a common element where the hero hesitates before fully embarking on the journey.

4. Meeting the Mentor: The Role of Her Family and Medical Technology

While Jenna doesn't have a traditional mentor figure, key influences guide her understanding:

- Her parents' attempts to protect and explain her condition.
- The role of technology and science as guiding forces.
- Jenna's growing curiosity about her origins and identity.

These influences serve as the "mentors," providing knowledge and pushing her toward self-discovery.

5. Crossing the Threshold: Opening Up to the Truth

Jenna begins to question her perceived reality, seeking answers beyond her immediate experience.

- Her discovery of the extent of her medical modifications.
- Encounters with hidden truths about her condition.
- The moment Jenna accepts that she is more than just her biological parts.

This marks her crossing into the unknown, where she begins to confront uncomfortable truths.

6. Tests, Allies, and Enemies: Facing Ethical Dilemmas and Social Challenges

Jenna encounters various challenges that test her understanding:

- Confronting her feelings of alienation from friends and family.
- Facing societal and ethical questions about bioengineering and identity.
- Discovering allies, such as her friend, Anika, who supports her quest for truth.
- Recognizing enemies, including societal pressures and her own doubts.

These trials help Jenna develop resilience and deepen her self-awareness.

7. Approach to the Inmost Cave: Confronting Her Identity

Jenna approaches her core dilemma—what it truly means to be human.

- Her internal debate about her consciousness and soul.
- The realization that her identity isn't solely rooted in biology.
- Preparing herself to face the ultimate truth about her existence.

This phase involves introspection and acceptance of complex moral questions.

8. The Ordeal: Facing the Reality of Her Life and Humanity

The climax of Jenna's journey involves a profound confrontation:

- Her discovery that she is a bioengineered clone, with parts of her original self removed or altered.
- The emotional turmoil and identity crisis this revelation sparks.
- Her decision to either accept her new identity or fight for her humanity.

This ordeal is the emotional and philosophical crucible that tests her resolve and understanding.

9. The Reward (Seizing the Sword): Embracing Her True Self

After facing her ordeal, Jenna reaches a new understanding:

- Acceptance of her unique identity.
- Recognition that her consciousness and feelings define her, beyond her biological makeup.
- The empowerment that comes with self-awareness.

This stage signifies her inner victory, embracing her authentic self despite societal labels.

10. The Road Back: Moving Forward with New Insights

Jenna begins to rebuild her life with her newfound understanding:

- Reconciliation with her family.
- Re-engagement with her community and friends.
- A commitment to live authentically, aware of her unique circumstances.

This phase involves applying her insights to her ongoing life.

11. The Resurrection: Transformation and Moral Growth

Jenna undergoes a final transformation, emerging as a changed individual:

- She fully accepts her identity as a human being, regardless of her origins.
- Her moral growth, understanding the importance of choice and authenticity.
- Her readiness to face future challenges with resilience and wisdom.

This resurrection signifies her rebirth as a person who comprehends what it means to be truly human.

12. Return with the Elixir: Sharing Her Wisdom

Though Jenna's journey is internal, her experience offers insight to others:

- Her story challenges societal perceptions of identity and bioethics.
- She becomes a voice advocating for understanding and acceptance.
- Jenna's journey offers a moral "elixir": that humanity is defined by consciousness, choice, and compassion.

Her return symbolizes her sharing of newfound wisdom with the world, inspiring others to reflect on what it means to be human.

Conclusion: The Timeless Relevance of Jenna Fox's Journey

The Adoration of Jenna Fox encapsulates many aspects of the Hero's Journey, illustrating how a young girl's internal struggles mirror the classic pattern of adventure and transformation. Jenna's story demonstrates that heroism is not solely about external battles but also about confronting profound questions within oneself. Her journey underscores the importance of identity, morality, and acceptance—timeless themes that resonate deeply in today's bioethical discussions and personal growth narratives.

In mapping Jenna Fox's story onto the 12 steps of the Hero's Journey, readers gain a richer understanding of her transformation and the universal truths embedded within her experience. Whether as an allegory for adolescence, morality, or the essence of humanity, Jenna Fox's journey remains a compelling example of how stories can reflect our deepest questions about what it means to be truly alive.

[What Are The 12 Steps Of The Heros Journey In The Book The Adoration Of Jenna Fox](#)

What Are The 12 Steps Of The Heros Journey In The Book The Adoration Of Jenna Fox

Related Articles

- [According To The 2014 Human Rights Risk Index, The Us Is Considered A _____ Risk](#)
- [What Does Clarisse Ask About That Might Make Montag Angry Again In Fahrenheit 451?](#)
- [How Does The Character Change \(from Beginning To End\) During The Story? ""Ambush""](#)

[Back to Home](#)