

# Map That MYTH

by Cynthia Levinson  
illustrated by Jeff Crosby

Have you ever wanted to be the hero in a story, such as *Spiderman* or *The Little Mermaid*? If you were Peter Parker, you'd have a very different adventure than if you were Ariel. There are many stories about heroes and many ways for them to show courage.

A man named Joseph Campbell studied thousands of myths from around the world. He learned that almost all hero myths follow a similar pattern. Most heroes follow "the hero's journey" to save the world from destruction or to find stolen treasure. It doesn't matter if the hero is Greek or African or if he or she faces rivers of fire or man-eating trees. Even Luke Skywalker and Harry Potter follow the hero's journey.

## Follow this map to trace the hero's journey.

In the beginning,  
the hero is happy.



The hero sets out  
to find the treasure  
or find a cure  
for the  
sickness.



**Suddenly**, there is a crisis—a  
treasure has been stolen or a sickness  
threatens the world. The hero must either  
volunteer to help or hide until a powerful force  
pushes him or her into action. (Campbell calls  
this the Call to Adventure.)



Along the way, he or she  
meets a magical helper—perhaps  
a wizard or a goddess.

Together, they battle an evil monster, who forces the hero to enter a kingdom of darkness—a thick forest, the world beneath the Earth, or even the belly of a whale.



The hero faces many dangers but refuses to give up.



Success! The hero captures the prize.



The journey is not over: The hero must escape the kingdom of darkness, facing more danger and evil, and return home.

In the end, the hero brings home the prize. The crisis is solved. 🌀

