Archetypes: At their most basic level, archetypes are recurring character types that appear in stories from many different cultures. They can also be viewed as different story-roles that characters or events perform in a story. One character can be more than one archetype. To look at it another way, archetypes are "masks" that characters put on to move the story forward.

Archetype	Description	Teacher's Example	My Example
Hero	• The protagonist of the story • Usually brave, honorable, self-sacrificing, and truthful	• Luke Skywalker • Frodo Baggins • Dorothy Gale	
Shadow	• The antagonist of the story • Opposes the hero • Dark reflection of the hero	• Darth Vader • Sauron, the One Ring • The Wicked Witch	
Mentor	• Trains and guides the hero • Usually older and wiser • Gives gifts and advice	• Obi-Wan Kenobi • Gandalf the Wizard • Glinda the Good Witch	
Herald	• Announces the need for a quest • Forces the hero to act	• Princess Leia's message • Gandalf and the One Ring • The Tornado	
Ally or Allies	• Accompanies and aids the hero • Provides comedy relief • Rounds out the hero's personality	• Princess Leia, Chewbacca • Samwise Gamgee • Scarecrow, Tin Man	
Threshold Guardian	• Tests the hero • Makes the hero face initial fears • Can become an ally	• Imperial Stormtroopers • The Black Riders • The winged monkeys	
Shapeshifter	• Shifty, has unknown alliances • Creates suspense • Can be a love interest	• Han Solo • Strider (Aragorn), Gollum • The Wizard of Oz	
Trickster	• Uses humor to aid or test the hero • Provides comedy relief • Cuts the hero's ego down to size	• R2-D2, C3P0 • Merry and Pippin • The Wizard of Oz	

Archetype	Description	Teacher's Example	My Example
Loyal Retainer	▪ Servants who attend the hero ▪ Protect the hero and reflect the hero's nobility	▪ Alfred Pennyworth ▪ Dobby the House Elf ▪ Samwise Gamgee	
Friendly Beasts	▪ Creatures who serve or aid the hero ▪ Show that nature is on the hero's side	▪ Toto ▪ Chewbacca ▪ Cinderella's mice	
Devil Figure	▪ The incarnation of evil ▪ Offers goods, wealth, or power in return for the hero's soul	▪ Emperor Palpatine ▪ The One Ring	
Creature of Nightmare	▪ Disfigured or mutated creatures ▪ Monsters who oppose the hero	▪ Werewolves ▪ Dragons ▪ Hydra	
Evil Figure with a Good Heart	▪ Evil character who is redeemed by the nobility or love of the hero	▪ Darth Vader ▪ The Terminator	
Outcast	▪ Character with a questionable past ▪ Banished from society ▪ Sometimes falsely accused	▪ Robin Hood ▪ Han Solo ▪ Aragorn	
Temptress	▪ Sensuous beauty ▪ Tries to bring down the hero through his attraction to her	▪ Jessica Rabbit ▪ Morgan le Fay	
Platonic Ideal	▪ Female character who gives the hero intellectual stimulation ▪ He is not attracted to her	▪ Hermione Granger ▪ Galadriel ▪ Lady of the Lake	
Damsel in Distress	▪ Vulnerable female character who needs to be rescued by the hero ▪ Can be a trap for the hero	▪ Princess Leia ▪ Sleeping Beauty	
Star-crossed Lovers	▪ Two lovers forbidden to be together because of society ▪ Often doomed	▪ Romeo and Juliet ▪ Lancelot and Guinevere	