**Fandom in the Classroom—2023**

**Sherry Fowler**

**Working Outline of Project**

**“Mind-forg’d manacles” represent Blake’s perception of self-limitation and the denigration of the human imagination (Particularly in the poem, “London.”). To achieve it, you first must be able to imagine it! Stories of heroes and dragons allow us to explore facing adversity and overcoming it in a mythical realm, gaining tools to apply to our own lives.**

1. The Hero’s Journey—why stories of adversity and triumph resonate with students who need to become the hero of their own lives.
   1. Essays that relate elements of the story (Show) to student’s own personal experiences.
   2. Fandom as action—taking part in a fandom allows the participant to take action and find community. Often the student/fan feels helpless in their own lives but can witness and discuss positive action through characters in the show.
   3. Stories of how actors also have faced and overcome adversity is inspiration for the student/fan to take risks and begin a path to overcoming their own adversities.
   4. Link to education—beginning in a familiar place with people/characters/storylines the student knows allows them to transfer the knowledge to the classroom.
      1. If they are reluctant readers, beginning with something they want to read is a good start.
   5. Fandom as Contemporary Myth.
      1. The Fandom experience as joining the hero’s journey and breaking off into one’s own hero’s journey.
2. The Fandoms/Shows and What Each Gives the Student/Fan: Case Studies: Essays on Each.
   1. Animation (various)
   2. Battlestar Galactica
   3. Gaming
   4. My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic
   5. Other fandoms
   6. Our Flag Means Death
   7. Star Trek
   8. Star Wars
   9. Stargate
   10. Supernatural
       1. Ted Lasso (Niki)
3. Elements of Fandom
   1. Analysis and Composition
   2. Art and Music
   3. Charity Work
   4. Community and Finding One’s Tribe
   5. Fanfic
   6. Organizing and Working with Others
   7. Shipping
4. Caveats of Going Down the Rabbit Hole of Fandom
   1. Good versus bad obsession
   2. Managing resources, personal and financial
   3. Separating Fandom from IRL
   4. Surviving social media
   5. Toxic Behavior in Fandoms
5. Extending Outward from the Fandom
   1. Finding a Voice
   2. Finding Community/Participation Beyond the Fandom
   3. Music
   4. Real-world applications
   5. Taking Risks
      1. Speaking skills
      2. Social Skills
6. The Alternative Highschool Classroom: The Issues
   1. Attendance
   2. Behavior Issues
   3. Diversities Issues
   4. Food Insecurity
   5. Identities Issues
   6. Learning Disabilities
   7. Low Schooled
   8. Mental Health
   9. Problems in the Home Environment
   10. Self esteem
7. Bringing Fandom into the Classroom: An Action Plan
   1. Reading
      1. Essays
      2. Scripts
   2. Writing
      1. Analysis
      2. Fanfic
      3. Personal Writings
      4. Poetry
   3. Other Media
      1. Art
      2. Comics
      3. Podcasts
      4. Storyboarding/Script writing
      5. Video production
   4. Exhibition (Extended Research Project or Capstone)
      1. Helping others begin their hero’s journey
      2. Presenting one’s work
      3. Striving for excellence
      4. Using one’s voice
   5. Lesson Plans
      1. Multimedia project
      2. Reading Exercises
      3. Writing Topics

Joseph Campbell Quotes

1. “Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the question when you are the answer.”  
   ― **Joseph Campbell**
   1. “As you proceed through life, following your own path, birds will shit on you. Don’t bother to brush it off.  
      Getting a comedic view of your situation gives you spiritual distance.  
      Having a sense of humor saves you.”  
      ― **Joseph Campbell**
2. “Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors for you where there were only walls.”  
   ― **Joseph Campbell**
3. “Instead of clearing his own heart the zealot tries to clear the world.”  
   ― **Joseph Campbell,**[**The Hero with a Thousand Faces**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/971054)
4. “Gods suppressed become devils, and often it is these devils whom we first encounter when we turn inward.”  
   ― **Joseph Campbell**
5. “The agony of breaking through personal limitations is the agony of spiritual growth. Art, literature, myth and cult, philosophy, and ascetic disciplines are instruments to help the individual past limiting horizons into spheres of ever-expanding realization. As he crosses threshold after threshold, conquering dragon after dragon, the stature of the divinity that he summons to his highest wish increases, until it subsumes the cosmos. Finally, the mind breaks the bounding sphere of the cosmos to a realization transcending all experiences of form - all symbolizations, all divinities: a realization of the ineluctable void.”  
   ― **Joseph Campbell,**[**The Hero With a Thousand Faces**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/971054)
6. “We’re not on our journey to save the world but to save ourselves. But in doing that you save the world. The influence of a vital person vitalizes.”  
   ― **Joseph Campbell**
7. “Find a place inside where there’s joy, and the joy will burn out the pain.”  
   ― **Joseph Campbell**
8. “**We must be willing to let go of the life we planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us**.” “The cave you fear to enter holds the treasure you seek.”
9. “Mythology is not a lie, mythology is poetry, it is metaphorical. It has been well said that mythology is the penultimate truth--penultimate because the ultimate cannot be put into words. It is beyond words. Beyond images, beyond that bounding rim of the Buddhist Wheel of Becoming. Mythology pitches the mind beyond that rim, to what can be known but not told.”  
   ― **Joseph Campbell,**[**The Power of Myth**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/971052)
10. “It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure.”  
    ― **Joseph Campbell**
11. “Perhaps some of us have to go through dark and devious ways before we can find the river of peace or the highroad to the soul’s destination.”  
    ― **Joseph Campbell,**[**The Hero With a Thousand Faces**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/971054)
12. “The way to find out about happiness is to keep your mind on those moments when you feel most happy, when you are really happy — not excited, not just thrilled, but deeply happy. This requires a little bit of self-analysis. What is it that makes you happy? Stay with it, no matter what people tell you. This is what is called following your bliss.”  
    ― **Joseph Campbell**
13. “Myth must be kept alive. The people who can keep it alive are the artists of one kind or another.”  
    ― **Joseph Campbell**
14. “Life is without meaning. You bring the meaning to it. The meaning of life is whatever you ascribe it to be. Being alive is the meaning.  
      
    Love is a friendship set to music.”  
    ― **Joseph Campbell**
15. “The hero of yesterday becomes the tyrant of tomorrow, unless he crucifies himself today.”  
    ― **Joseph Campbell,**[**The Hero With a Thousand Faces**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/971054)
16. “Participate joyfully in the sorrows of the world. We cannot cure the world of sorrows, but we can choose to live in joy.”  
    ― **Joseph Campbell**