

Screenwriting and Treatments with the 510+ Hero's Journey

Question

Hello, Kal...it's Louan Gideon again from Asheville, North Carolina...

Okay...I am halfway through my novel, and on page 68 of your 101+ version of The Hero's Journey. It's helped me considerably to build plot and move it along well—but at this point, I'm a little confused.

I keep referring to your 113 page print-out...and it seems that between Act 5 and Act 6b a lot of the same points are covered, or perhaps you keep going back to remind us of what has needed to happen up until now. Is that the case, or is it actually a step-by-step symbolism of what should be happening (of course, with different choices at each point; i.e., sometimes here it goes this way...other times it might go that way...)

I understand that there have to be MANY challenges overcome by the hero, as well as many push-pulls to move the plot along, but it seems I'm just getting a little bit stuck, as I'm trying to follow your guidelines, in my hero's challenges over and over again at the same point without my hero moving forward...could you help me out here? Are you saying that the plot at Chapter 6, for example, could go **either** the way of 6a, or 6b? Or does 6a **lead into** 6b, and **ALL** the steps are to be included, if possible? THAT'S where I'm confused.

Your print-out has been SO very helpful that I want to make sure and follow it correctly.

Thank you so much!

Louan Gideon

Answer

Hi Louan,

First, do you have the latest 510+ stage Hero's Journey? It really is worth keeping up to date. You mention 113 pages, so I assume that you have a VERY old version. The latest is 300+ pages.

All the major steps are mandatory - it is unwise to skip them unless you know what you're doing.

All the minor steps are not mandatory, but are there to help you navigate between the major steps. For example, you may have many minor options between the major stages (a New Name, Meeting Allies etc) and it is up to you to decide which is most appropriate.

[When I say minor, I don't mean that they're not important, but that they are a selection of important considerations that you should take account of when filling your scene].

Hope this makes sense,

Best,

<http://www.clickok.co.uk/index4.html>