Archetypes: Recognizing Patterns in Literature

PRHS 9th Pre-AP Language Arts
Once upon a time, there was a man named Carl Jung

- Swiss psychiatrist
- Studied dreams, personalities, and religious connections
- 1925 "Bugishu Psychological Expedition" to East Africa

What he figured out (this was expanded by J. Campbell):
- People all over the world have the same dreams and stories
- We have a “collective unconscious” from birth
- The collective unconscious comes out in the form of archetypes in our stories
What is an archetype?

A pattern repeated through the ages in folk and literary expressions. An original model on which something is patterned.

Excerpt about Carl Jung & archetypes from Psychology Classics narrated by Tom Butler Bowdon  http://youtu.be/dBDGw6AFoSs
Patterns within archetypes:

- **Symbol**: Concrete object representing an idea

- **Motif**: Visual detail developed throughout a work. It may reinforce character, enhance theme or foreshadow plot developments. A repeating pattern

- **ARCHETYPES** are what makes readers/listeners/viewers relate to and enjoy a story. We connect with what we already know from our “collective unconscious.”
Archetypal Theme #1:

The quest: the hero undertakes a long journey towards a goal. Must perform impossible tasks, confront errors, learn the rules, suffer doubts and overcome insurmountable obstacles.

Can you think of a story patterned after this archetypal theme? Write down at least one idea

One example:  http://youtu.be/3mNEgCn5Cml
Another example:  http://youtu.be/pWS8Mg-JWS
The initiation (rite of passage, fall from innocence): The hero undergoes series of ordeals passing from innocence to social/spiritual maturity. Pattern of separation, transformation, and return.

Can you think of a story patterned after this archetypal theme? Write down at least one idea.

One example:  http://youtu.be/4sj1MT05lAA
Another example:  http://youtu.be/dkX8J-FKndE
Another example:  http://youtu.be/ukdRPqtZDE8
Archetypal Characters:

the hero: has unusual origins; strong, brave, smart, handsome; often a prince, leader or savior.

Examples?

My example: http://youtu.be/g6RZ1CV-44s
Archetypal Characters:

the wise counselor: dedicated to order and good; has wisdom of experience; advises the hero.

My example:  http://youtu.be/71_p8P_PVXo
Archetypal Characters:

the companion: Befriends and helps the hero; may be unusual

My example: [http://youtu.be/jJGeeryk0Eo](http://youtu.be/jJGeeryk0Eo)
Archetypal Characters:

the demonic adversary: a villain; represents evil; *almost* as strong as hero; may take on a monstrous form.

My example: http://youtu.be/okvnUzTRwU0
Archetypal Characters:

The sacrificial scapegoat: hero who chooses to die or allows himself to be sacrificed to restore his people or the land back to fruitfulness

My example:  http://youtu.be/gdlgy-4o4fs
Archetypal Characters:

the earth mother: the protector of good, home, family; represents warmth, security, fertility, growth; may be a sacred woman who intercedes for those who pray for her.

My example:
http://youtu.be/ppGMNRNgYrg
Archetypal Characters:

the terrible mother: witch, stepmother, siren or temptress; does the exact opposite of what a mother should do.

My example: [http://youtu.be/_bhopXy8hBw](http://youtu.be/_bhopXy8hBw)
Archetypal Characters:

the female soul mate: represents goodness, innocence, purity; may be a princess who is beautiful, sought after and remote.

My example:  [http://youtu.be/zSVNOzXJuIY](http://youtu.be/zSVNOzXJuIY)