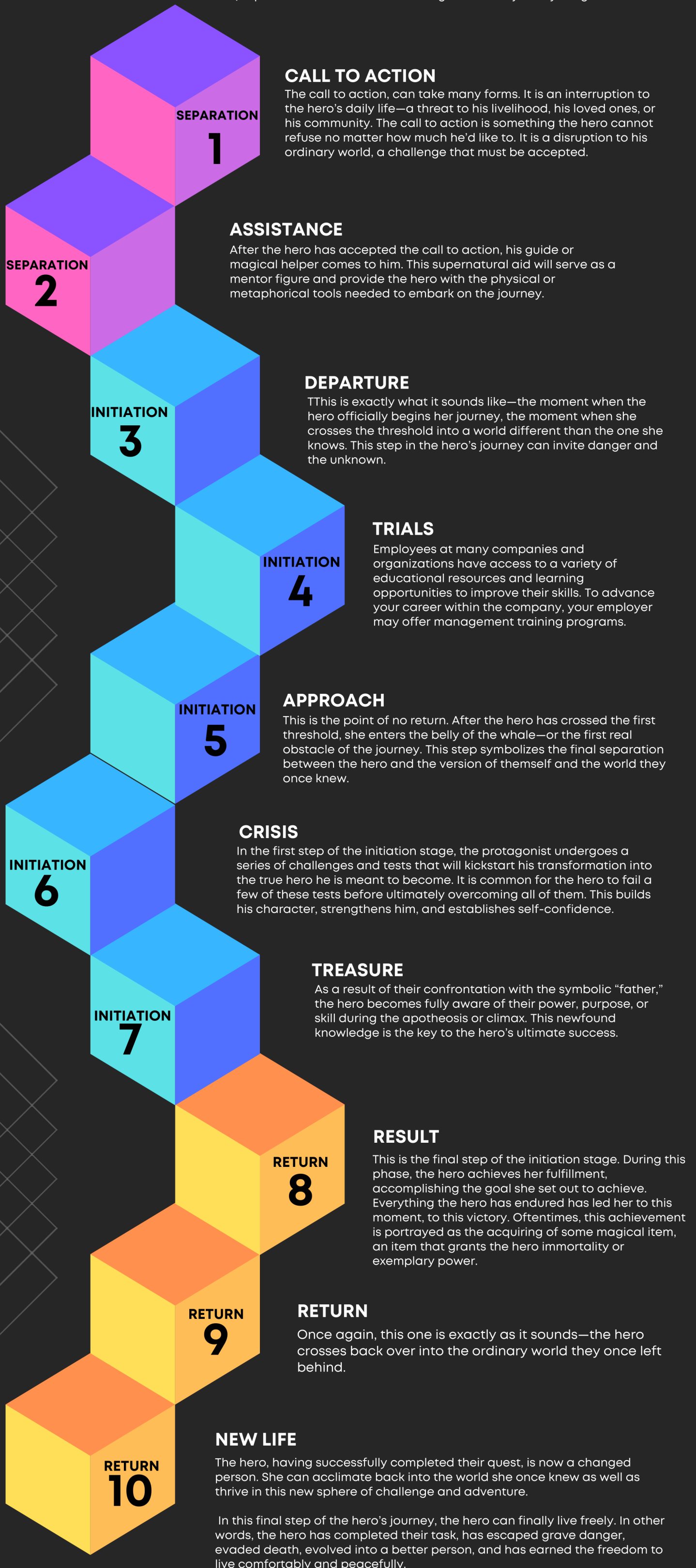


# ALLEY THEATRE

## THE HERO'S JOURNEY

Everything from Disney classics to literary classics follows an archetype—or a set of narrative designs, motifs, character types, images, or elements that every story inherently follows. Whether it is Simba's journey back to Pride Rock in *The Lion King*, or Harry's quest to defeat Voldemort in the *Harry Potter* series, literary critics and readers alike can pinpoint certain elements of these stories and trace them back to ancient precedents. These recurring features reflect universal, primitive, and elemental patterns, which are meant to evoke profound responses from the audience. Some of the most common archetypes include death/rebirth plots, the journey home, the search for family, and—you guessed it!—the hero's journey.

(<https://www.skillshare.com/en/blog/the-heros-journey-stages-and-structure/>)



# YOUR OWN HERO'S JOURNEY

Using the steps you've now learned from the previous infographic, write down the simple steps of a hero's journey you've taken yourself. Everyone has many hero's journey's! We have supplied examples to use as guides. For example: Your CALL TO ACTION could be to try out for a school team or play. Or you could choose the action steps you took to overcome great anxiety or an experience of telling a difficult truth.

## 1) Your CALL TO ACTION

Frodo Baggins, the hero in The Lord of the Rings trilogy, is called to action by the wizard Gandalf. Frodo must take the Ring and destroy it, in order to save all of Middle-Earth, his loved ones, his community, and ultimately, the world as they know it.

## 2) Your ASSISTANCE

In The Sandlot when "Benny the Jet" Rodriguez decides he must be the one to go over the Beast's fence to retrieve the baseball signed by Babe Ruth, he is visited by the legendary baseball player and gives him inspiration and the metaphorical tools to conquer his fears.

## 3) Your DEPARTURE

In Jane Eyre, the hero, crosses the threshold when she becomes the governess at Thornfield Hall, a home owned and run by Mr. Rochester. She crosses the threshold, both literally and metaphorically, and changes the course of her life.

## 4) Your TRIALS

In Batman Begins, Bruce Wayne loses his parents, endures endless hours of gruesome training, and comes across decisively evil opponents. These hardships ultimately produce the greatest heroic form Batman can obtain

## 5) Your APPROACH

This is the point of no return. After the hero has crossed the first threshold, she enters the belly of the whale—or the first real obstacle of the journey. This step symbolizes the final separation between the hero and the version of themselves and the world they once knew.

## 6) Your CRISIS

This is the step when the protagonist undergoes a series of challenges and tests to kickstart his transformation into the true hero he is meant to become. It is common for the hero to fail a few of these tests before ultimately overcoming all of them.

## 7) Your TREASURE

As a result of their confrontation with the challenges of the crisis, the hero becomes fully aware of their power, purpose, or skill during the climax of the journey. This newfound knowledge is the key to the hero's ultimate success.

## 8) Your RESULT

During this phase, the hero accomplishes the goal. Everything the hero has endured has led her to this victory. Oftentimes, this achievement is portrayed as the acquiring of some magical item, an item that grants the hero immortality or exemplary power.

## 9) Your RETURN

Once again, this one step is exactly as it sounds—the hero crosses back over into the ordinary world they once left behind.

## 10) Your NEW LIFE

The hero, having successfully completed their quest, is now a changed person. She can acclimate back into the world she once knew as well as thrive in this new sphere of challenge and adventure.

**In this final step of your hero's journey, you can finally live freely. In other words, you have completed your task, escaped your grave danger, evaded death, or most often, evolved into a better person.**