

## Character Types

*“The archetypes are amazingly constant throughout all cultures, in the dreams and personalities of individuals as well in the mythic imagination of the entire world”.*

Christopher Vogler

Characters are like us. They have the same strengths, weaknesses, needs and desires. Here’s a list of character types, inspired by mythical storytelling and used by writers for centuries. They’re not always easy to identify as sometimes the one character might fulfil two or more of these roles. Just to keep it simple, assume the Hero is always the Hero.

### **Hero**

Female / male / animal / anything with human characteristics

Who the story is about, (can be more than one person) and we usually identify with them.

We follow them through the story

They make decisions, sacrifices and face danger

They have faults

### **Herald**

A Herald is a messenger. They can appear anywhere but usually its towards the beginning.

They provide information

They help to set up the story

They inform us or the Hero of an impending change

### **Mentor**

A teacher, offering the Hero knowledge

They can give the Hero gifts that help them out later on

Heroes usually have to earn their advice

### **Ally**

This is a friend. The Hero usually wins their confidence and friendship.

Allies also help the Hero achieve her goal but they never do it for them.

**Shapeshifter**

They are two faced, appearing to be one thing at first, then revealing their true, untrustworthy selves.  
Shapeshifters add suspense and tension

**Shadow**

This is the Villain  
Villains have a cause. They're rarely bad or evil just for the sake of it.  
They want to achieve something, even if it's stopping the Hero from achieving her goal.

**Trickster**

The fool or clown.  
Can cut the Hero or Shadow down to size  
Often wiser than they appear

**Threshold Guardian**

They stand between the Hero and what she wants.  
They test the Hero  
They represent obstacles

**with the Bluecoat.**