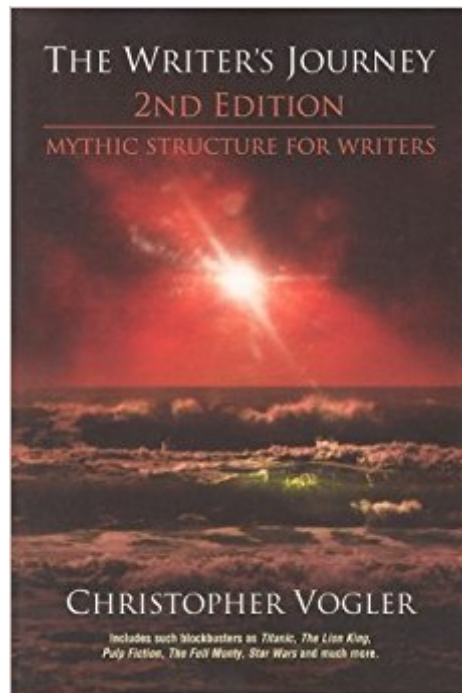




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# The Writers Journey: Mythic Structure For Writers, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

See why this book has become an international best seller, and a true classic. First published in 1992, *The Writer's Journey* explores the powerful relationship between mythology and storytelling in a clear, concise style that's made it required reading for movie executives, screenwriters, scholars, and lovers of pop culture all over the world. Writers of both fiction and non-fiction will discover a set of useful myth-inspired storytelling paradigms (ie. *The Hero's Journey*) and step-by-step guidelines to plot and character development. Based on the work of Joseph Campbell, *The Writer's Journey* is a must for writers of all kinds interested in further developing their craft. The updated and revised second edition provides new insights and observations from Vogler's ongoing work on mythology's influence on stories, movies, and man himself.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At the beginning of *The Writer's Journey*, Christopher Vogler asserts that "all stories consist of a few common structural elements found universally in myths, fairy tales, dreams, and movies." Some may be hard-pressed to accept this idea (and will wonder how storytellers from Homer to Shakespeare to Robert Altman might respond to the proposition). Others may imagine that since Vogler uses movies like the *Star Wars* trilogy and *The Lion King* to defend his mythological philosophy, he is, unwittingly, listing the reasons why Hollywood films of the last 20 years have been so unimaginative. But there's no doubt that Vogler's notion, based on psychological writings by Carl Jung and the mythmaking philosophy of Joseph Campbell, has been profoundly influential. Many

screenwriters have used Vogler's volume to understand why certain scenarios sell, and to discover a blueprint for creating mythic stories of their own. Now in its second edition, *The Writer's Journey* sets forth archetypes common in what Vogler calls "the hero's journey," the mythic structure that he claims all stories follow. In the book's first section, he lists the different kinds of typological characters who appear in stories. In the second, he discusses the stages of the journey through which the hero generally passes. The final, supplementary portion of the book explains in detail how films like *Titanic* and *The Full Monty* follow the patterns he has outlined. --Raphael Shargel

Good reference book that helps you consider some factors that you may not have already. Not saying the many would but so often the things that we don't see as a big deal are in fact the big deal to readers and watchers

A must-read for anyone who wants to be a writer or storyteller. As Robert McKee would say, "storytelling is about archetypes, not stereotypes." Vogler teaches you the archetype, and gives you confidence to trust the path of being a writer, if you're willing to take it seriously enough.

This is the best book on structure I've ever read. It's helped me so much. I had been looking at Joseph Campbell's *HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES*, trying to apply it to my writing, and POOF!--somehow, I found Vogler's book and saved myself years of trial and error. Vogler distills timeless concepts for easy access and immediate use. As I read *THE WRITER'S JOURNEY*, ideas started bubbling up, then pouring out of me. I was able to fully understand things I'd only had inklings of before--why certain things I was trying worked, why others didn't, what ideas could be pushed and developed more fully, and most importantly for me, how to do that. Other books on structure seem to run together after awhile, they all seem the same. They all stress conflict, heightened conflict, the use of contrast, pacing, but for me, they all seem kind of arbitrary. Vogler's book goes deeper for me, the structures he's talking about resonate in my gut, as if they've always been part of me, and if one goes along with Jung and his concept of the collective unconscious, this makes sense--Jung and Campbell say these structures are in all of us--in our dreams, our religions, everywhere. Whether that's true or not, I couldn't care less, all I know is it's helping me write, helping me grow conflict organically. Vogler has worked for years in the movie business--we owe him many thanks for sharing the elixir of his knowledge. *THE WRITER'S JOURNEY* is must reading for writers of any kind of narrative and for anyone wanting to know more about how stories are built.--Saragail Benjamin, author of *MY DOG ATE IT*

Not as much of a slog as the original Joseph Campbell book "The Hero's Journey" but, I didn't find it much help with writing stories either -- maybe because I had already heard so much about the hero's journey. I got through the first third and gave up.

Seriously? I have a major in creative writing and have written two novels and published one so far. I would have to say that if there is only one book that you should read in order to write fiction, this is it. No question about it. No other book I've read in the last forty years (and I have quite a library of writer's manuals) even comes close. If you want to be a writer, this and the Chicago manual of style are all you need. If you have a degree in English, you don't need the manual of style. Just get it.

I had previously read the Second Edition of Mr. Vogler's excellent book, and this edition offers MUCH more. This is by far the best book for aspiring novelists and screenwriters. It is well-written, east-to-follow, and brilliant in every way. But if you're like I am, you will be underlining and highlighting until you run out of in.

Volger takes the familiar Hero's Journey by Joseph Campbell and dissects it and adds to it. There's not a lot of "how-to" here, but a lot of philosophy, and deconstruction. It really enriches your ability to write, by helping you internalize the basic components in the monomyth in very in-depth nature. It's dense, and not a good manual for those getting started. I could see this being interesting for history and mythology buffs as well.

I have loved every edition of The Writer's Journey. This one is no exception. Over the years I've purchased each edition but I've tended to give the books away to other writers. They've all found the books to be amazing as well. Chris Vogler learned this structure from Joseph Campbell's work in discovering and explaining story structure as it has existed through the millennia. Joseph Campbell is brilliant but hardly understand him. That's where Chris Vogler's brilliant translation comes in so handy. He makes the mythical story structure come alive and he demonstrates its continued use in modern works of fiction, primarily movies, that are being made every day around the world. After reading Vogler I've been able to spot the gate keeper in books and movies along with the mentor, the hero (not so hard) and the various phases of their journey through the story. More importantly, Vogler's book has improved my writing. I truly love this book and I highly - highly recommend it for every writer and story teller out there who would like to improve their stories by adding the mythical

structure as translated into the modern world. Buy it, you won't be disappointed.

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