

Task for *Ubby's Underdogs: Heroes Beginnings*

Hero's journey structure

Structure of hero's journey	Examples from the text.
<p>1. The Ordinary World</p> <p>Volume 1 of <i>Ubby's Underdogs</i> is basically set in the 'ordinary world' of Broome although there are hints of a 'special world' beyond the here and now. The 'special world' becomes more pronounced in Volume 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to list the various references to this 'special world' in Volume 2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "... spirits wandering the land tonight..." (p. 66) • The Sandpaper Dragon is heading for Hollow Graves (p. 66) • "... the moon's staircase..." (p. 67) • Yupman allows Ubby to enter Medinga's consciousness (p. 79) • Mulli calls a meeting of the Council of Magic (p. 66)
<p>2. Call to adventure</p> <p>In Volume 1, Ubby and her gang are involved in a number of high-action episodes but these are not the beginning of a hero's journey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to discuss the point in the story in Volume 2 where they think that the hero's journey begins. • A hero's journey often involves the hero in rescuing a 'princess'. Who might be the princess in this story and who the hero? 	
<p>3. Refusal of call</p> <p>It should be fairly easy for students to identify the point in the story when Ubby decides that she can no longer answer the call to rescue her friend Sai Fong.</p>	

<p>4. The mentor (or the wise old man)</p> <p>Discuss with students who they think the wise old man is in this story. What evidence is there that this character can equip Ubby (and her gang) with special knowledge and skills to face their challenge?</p>	
<p>5. Crossing the first threshold</p> <p>A challenge emerges for Ubby on Page 146 of the graphic novel. Up to this point she and her gang have been engaged in various escapades mostly to do with protecting the ape, Medinga, from Paul Donappleton, the hunters and Uning and the Hede. What is the challenge befitting a hero that now presents itself?</p>	
<p>6. Tests, allies and enemies</p> <p>Ubby's allies are obviously the other members of her gang. They also gain hero status when the three Nanren weapons select them as worthy to wield them. What are the three weapons and what powers do they confer?</p> <p>Ubby's enemies include Paul Donappleton and Uning and the Hede. What are they seeking?</p>	

<p>7. Approach to the inmost cave</p> <p>Volume 2 of <i>Ubby's Underdogs</i> ends with all of the major characters heading for a supernatural place called Hollow Graves. Who is going to Hollow Graves? Why?</p> <p>Obviously, the last stages of the hero's journey will be the subject of the next volume in the <i>Ubby's Underdogs</i> trilogy. However, it would be interesting for students to make some predictions about what might happen next based on clues in Volume 2.</p>	
<p>8. The ordeal</p> <p>What challenge could possibly represent a live-or-die moment for Ubby in this story? What hostile force do students think she will face?</p>	
<p>9. Reward</p> <p>Throughout a hero's journey story the hero seeks a 'Holy Grail', a reward for facing the challenge. Students could discuss what reward Ubby may be granted for surviving her fight with hostile forces.</p> <p>Often in a hero's journey story the hero is also searching for an elixir that can heal a wounded person. Which character in this story might represent that person?</p>	

<p>10. The road back</p> <p>What dangers will Ubby and her gang face as they retreat to the Ordinary World of Broome? How will they cope with the dark forces which might pursue them?</p>	
<p>11. Resurrection</p> <p>Sai Fong has come to Australia seeking a cure for her illness. The gremlin inside the War Crown Spider explains that he has brought from China an egg to 'incubate' Sai Fong. Does this mean that Sai Fong will be re-born?</p>	
<p>12. Return with the elixir</p> <p>The hero returns with the 'elixir' which could be actual treasure or perhaps some new knowledge or wisdom. What sort of 'elixir' might Ubby bring back to the 'ordinary world'?</p>	