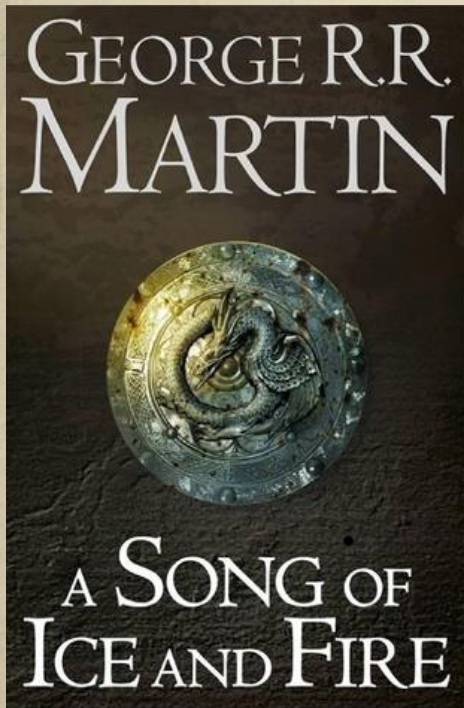
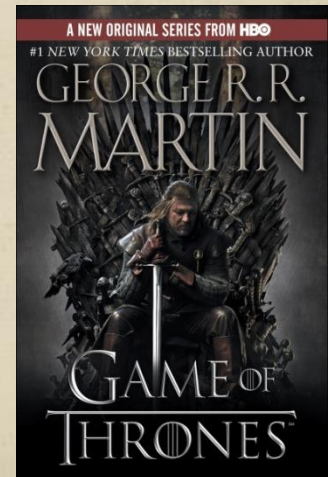


Archetypes in A Game of Thrones



A Game of Thrones

A Song of Ice and Fire
by George R.R. Martin



Archetypes in A Game of Thrones

GAME OF THRONES

Winter is coming



A Song of Ice and Fire

– by George R.R. Martin

- Book One: *A Game of Thrones*
 - Book Two: *A Clash of Kings*
 - Book Three: *A Storm of Swords*
 - Book Four: *A Feast for Crows*
 - Book Five: *A Dance with Dragons*
 - Book Six: *The Winds of Winter* (being written)
 - Book Seven: *A Dream of Spring* “
-
- Fire – Dragons, Targaryens
 - Lord of Light
 - Ice – Winter, Starks, the Wall
 - White Walkers

Warning

Spoilers!!

Westeros and Essos

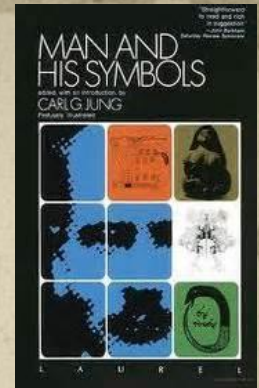


Myth and meaning

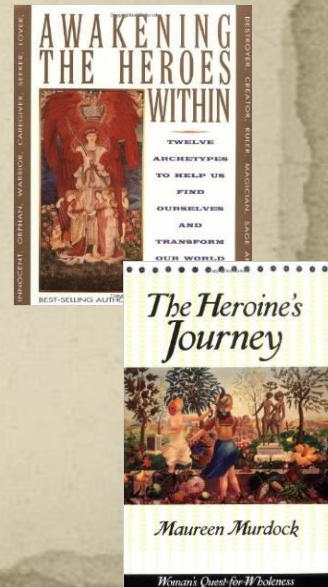
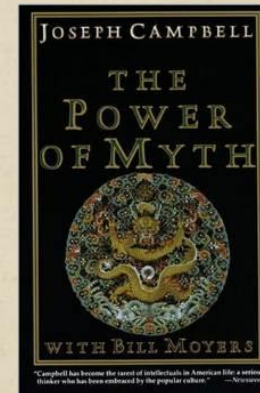
- Humans as meaning-makers – Jerome Bruner
- Humans as story-tellers – narrative theory
- Humans as mythopoeic–Carl G. Jung, Joseph Campbell
 - The mythic themes in A Song of Ice and Fire are ancient



Archetypes



- Carl Jung: Archetypes are powerful & primordial images & symbols
 - Collective unconscious
- Carl Jung's archetypes
 - Great Mother; Father; Hero; Savior...
- Joseph Campbell – *The Power of Myth*
 - The Hero's Journey
- Carole Pearson – the 12 archetypes
 - Ego stage: Innocent; Orphan; Caretaker; Warrior
 - Soul transformation: Seeker; Destroyer; Lover; Creator;
 - Self: Ruler; Magician; Sage; Fool
- Maureen Murdock – *The Heroine's Journey*



Carl Gustav Jung



Jung's archetypes

- The Great Mother (& Maiden, & Crone), the Great Father, the child, the Shadow, the wise old man, the trickster, the hero....
 - In the mystery of the cycle of seasons
 - In ancient gods & goddesses
 - In myth, fairy tale & fantasy
 - & the Seven in *A Game of Thrones*



Archetypes in ASOIAF

- The Gods:
 - The Old Gods
 - The Seven (Norse mythology):
 - Maiden, Mother, Crone
 - Father, Warrior, Smith
 - Stranger (neither male or female)
 - R'hilor (Lord of light)
 - Others: The Drowned God, Mother Rhoyme



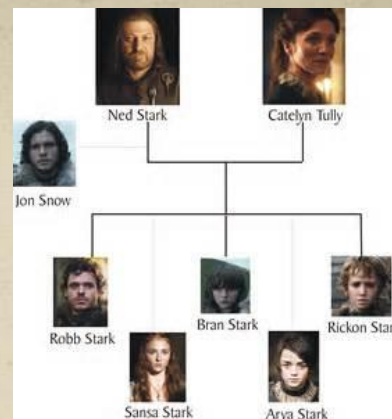
Animal archetypes

- The family sigils
 - Stark - Direwolf
 - Baratheon - Stag
 - Lannister - Lion
 - Targaryen - Dragon
 - Arryn - Falcon
 - Tully - Trout
 - Greyjoy - Kraken



Archetype characters

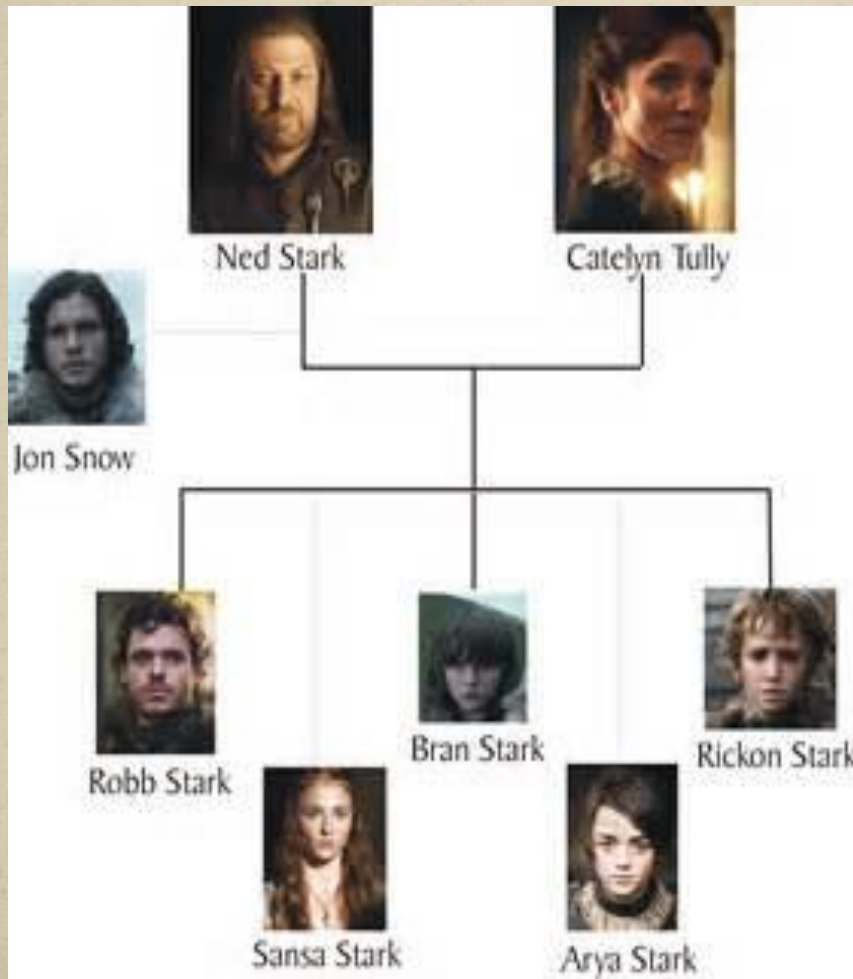
- Light(er) archetypes - examples
 - Father: Eddard (Ned) Stark
 - Mother: Catelyn Stark
 - Maiden: Sansa, Daenerys, Myrcella
 - Maiden Warriors: Meera, Brienne, Ygritte, Asha
 - Crone: Oleana Tyrell, Queen of Thorns
 - Warriors: Many! Rob Stark, Jon Snow
 - Beric Dondarrion, Loras Tyrell, Barristan Selmy, Khal Drogo, Jorah Mormont, Grey Worm, Daario Naharis
 - Smith: at the Wall: Donal Noye, Maester Aemon, Samwell Tarly
 - Stranger: Kindly Man in House of Black and White



Archetype characters

- Dark archetypes
 - Father: Tywin Lannister, Jaime Lannister (as a father)
 - Mother: Cersei Lannister, Lysa Arryn
 - Maiden: Margaery Tyrell
 - Crone: Catelyn Stark, Oleana, various witches
 - Warriors: Many! All on Arya's lists
 - Smith: Maester Pycelle, ex-Maester Qyburn
 - Stranger: Jaquen H'ghar, Sandor Clegane, Arya

Archetypes in the Stark family



- Ned Stark – Father
- Catelyn Stark – Mother
 - Crone
- Sansa & Arya – Maiden
 - Arya: Maiden Warrior
 - Then Stranger/Destroyer
- Rob & Jon – Warriors
 - Then Rulers
- Bran – Seeker
- Rickon - Destroyer

Many maiden/warriors

- Arya Stark
- Brienne of Tarth
- Asha Greyjoy
- Meera Reed
- Ygritte



Dark archetypes

- Many!
 - Ruler: Joffrey; Walder Frey
 - Mother & Ruler: Cersei
 - Magician: Melisandre
 - Warrior: many dark warriors
 - & Wildlings



Really really dark archetypes

- The Others
 - Winter is coming!

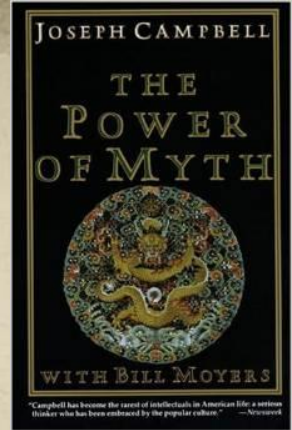


And hero archetypes

- George R. R. Martin [website](#)
 - Many heroines/heroes in different ways
 - And failed or partial heroes
- Our focus on:
 - Danerys
 - Jon Snow
 - Tyrion



Joseph Campbell



- Mythologist
- *The Hero with a Thousand Faces; The Power of Myth*
 - A monomyth underlies all mythic narratives
 - Myths are stories that teach us what it means to be an adult, to love, to have courage and integrity, to face sacrifice & death
 - Function for societies: to explain, to maintain, to guide
 - Old stories from ancient times & new stories for the future
 - The “whole of the human race....engaged in the effort of making the world *transparent to transcendence*”

The archetypal challenge in GOT

- The shared journey of all, smallfolk & greatfolk
- “Winter is coming”
- “The King and the Land are One”
 - Power vs responsibility
 - Consequences of bad rulership & war
 - “...Many of the fantasy epics ... don’t deal honestly about the consequences of war. What war does to us as a society; what war does to us as individuals...”
- What you sow, you shall reap



The heroine/hero's journey

- The Hero's Journey: *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*
 - The story of the man or woman who answers the call, suffers greatly & sacrifices all they hold dear, to reach “the eternal source”. They return to their home with gifts that will ultimately transform & save their society.



The hero/heroine's journey

- The personal journey – the hero is faced with themes of
 - Family
 - Identity
 - Coming of age to adulthood
 - Love, passion, friendship, agape
 - Choices and consequences
 - Self vs social norms; self-interest vs the good of the whole
 - Good vs evil: encounter with the Shadow
 - Encounter with the Self
 - Sacrifice, death and rebirth
 - Union of opposites in the psyche: shadow, animal, anima/animus
 - Transformation, transcendence of the ego

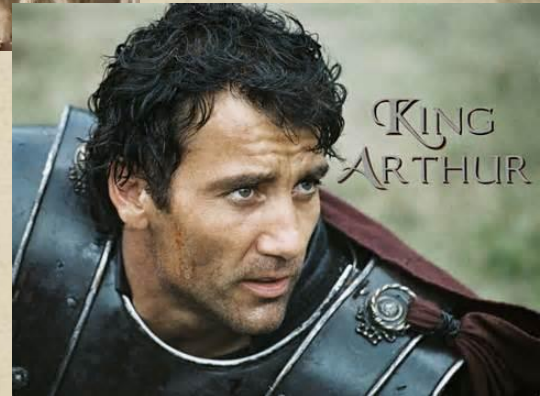
The personal is the social

- In myth & story, the heroine/hero's personal archetypal journey occurs within & mirroring the archetypal salvation of the society
- Her/his transformation transforms the society as well
 - Old myths & stories of the hero's journey:
 - Gilgamesh, Hercules, Arthur,
 - And.....

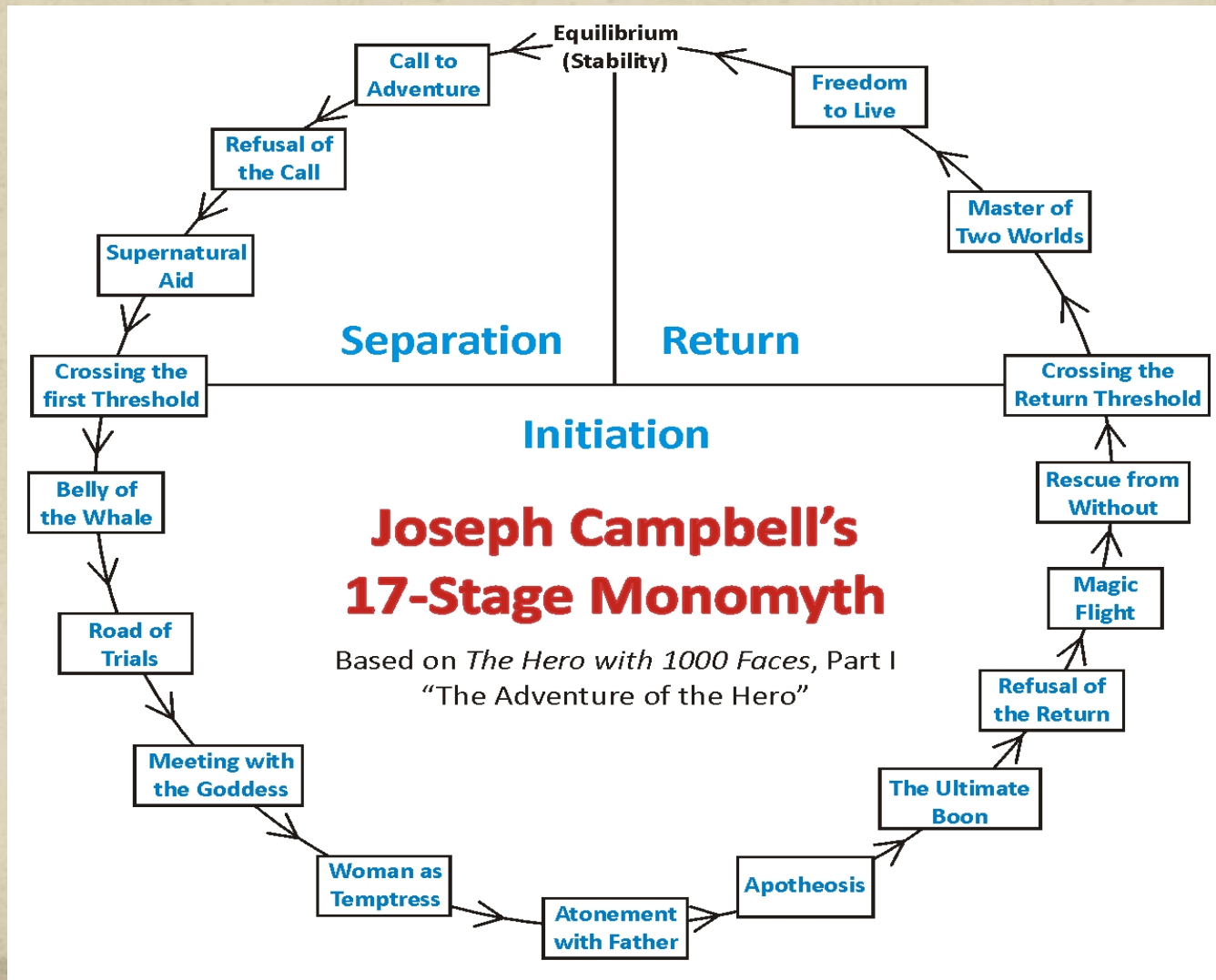


The old stories of mythic heroes

- Gilgamesh the King
- Hercules, son of Zeus
- Arthur, King of the Britons
- And the new stories:
- Aragorn, King of Middle Earth,
 - Bilbo, Frodo
- Luke in Star Wars
- Superhero stories
- And.....



17 Stages of the hero's journey



The hero's journey



- Separation: *The Call to Adventure, Refusal of the Call, Supernatural Aid*
- Initiation: *Belly of the Whale, Road of Trials, Meeting with the Goddess & Atonement with the Father, Apotheosis, the Boon, Refusal of Return*
- Return: *Master of Two Worlds, Freedom to Live*
- Heroine's journey can be different – with archetypes of seasonal change, autumn to winter to spring, rather than images of a journey

The heroine's journey



- ***The Heroine's Journey*** (from Maureen Murdock)
 - Potentially Sansa & Arya Stark, Cersei Lannister, Arianne Martel
- Stages:
- ***Separation from the Feminine:*** search for an identity in a masculine-defined culture
- ***The Road of Trials:*** challenging the myths of female inferiority, dependency, & romantic love
- ***Spiritual Aridity:*** losing herself in her struggle for achievement
- ***Initiation & Descent to the Goddess:*** a time to draw inward & look for “the lost pieces of herself”
- ***Urgent yearning to reconnect with the Feminine:*** heal the Mother-Daughter Split
- ***Integrating & healing the wounded parts of her inner Masculine***
- ***The Sacred Marriage:*** occurs as she learns to integrate & balance all aspects of herself, feminine & masculine



Hero's/Heroine's Journey

- Themes – different forms of heroism for every hero/culture/era
 - The potential hero – courage, ability, care
 - The orphan prince or princess, unknown, hidden or lost
 - All orphaned. Unknown, hidden: Aegon Targaryen, Jon Snow
- The Awakening, the Call
- Mysterious or magical help, crossing the threshold
- Road of Trials, Consequences
- Sacrifice
- Transformation
- Not all who wander are lost!
 - But not all who wander are found either – many heroes fail

Hero/heroine types

- The true hero/heroine
 - Daenerys, Jon Snow, Brienne, and.....
- The failed hero - Ned Stark, Rob Stark, Jorah Mormont
- The reluctant hero – Davos Seaworth (Onion Knight)
- The atypical hero – Tyrion Lannister, Bran Stark, Samwell Tarly
- Redeemed hero? Well, we'll see - Jaime Lannister , Theon Greyjoy, Jorah Mormont

Hero/heroine types

- Exploring heroism
 - Many dimensions
 - Many turns on the journey
 - Many refuse the Call
 - And others fall along the way when faced with the road of trials and the sacrifice
 - Greek myth or tragedy – a tragic flaw, or impossible circumstance

“The Call”

- The Challenge, the Call to adventure, the Prophecy
 - The outer reflects the inner
 - Through the call or prophecy, the journey begins
 - Refusal of the Call (Ned Stark chooses)
 - Consequences of one's choices – many heroes then fall
 - The siren call of passion - Rob
 - The fires of revenge – Walder Frey, Cersei, Catelyn,
 - The ice of obsession – Littlefinger, Viserys
 - The promises of power, wealth, fame – Tywin, Theon
 - Or the hard choices of service and sacrifice – Beric Dondarrion, Daenerys, Jon Snow, Samwell Tarly

All face the crisis & consequences

- Jamie Lannister
- Daenerys Targaryen
- Sansa Stark
- Arya Stark
- Rob Stark
- Lysa Arryn
- Cersei Lannister
- Tywin Lannister
- Jon Snow

Failed heroes

- Rob Stark



- Marriage of love but it betrayed the arranged Frey marriage & led to the Red Wedding

- Theon Greyjoy



- Betrayed the Starks of Winterfell to please his father Balon, Lord on the Iron Islands

- Jamie Lannister



- Kingslayer; incestuous betrayal of his King; attempted murder of Bran

Hero/heroine journey

- The Sacrifice is demanded
 - It is always “All that you hold dear”
 - Descent to the Goddess (Inanna myth) – the hero must lose all, family, love, wealth, crown, fame, beauty, power, divinity
 - Be naked and humbled
 - Ned, Danerys, Jamie, Arya, Catelyn, Jon - Every character loses all



Potentials

- From consequences of their own actions, some learned the **wrong** lesson
 - Viserys, Joffrey, Cersei, Tywin, Stannis
- From consequences of their own actions, some learned the **right** lesson
 - Pride & identifications stripped away
 - Jamie, Theon
 - Sansa, Jon, Daenerys
- Revenge & murder
- For Stannis & Cersei, the death of all their children
- I'm not who I thought I was

Transformation

- Danaerys, Mother of Dragons
- Jon, Bran, Tyrion
- Arya

Daenerys – journey of transformation

- As the Orphan
- As the Maiden – time of innocence
- As the Wife – the awakening
 - Theme of love
- Consequences –
 - Theme of sacrifice
- Mother
 - Of dragons
 - Of the freed slaves
- The General, the Ruler
- The lost one
- Next -



Danearys' Heroine's Journey

- ***Separation from the Feminine:*** search for an identity in a masculine-defined culture
- ***The Road of Trials:*** challenging the myths of female inferiority, dependency, & romantic love
- ***Spiritual Aridity:*** losing herself in her struggle for achievement
- ***Initiation & Descent to the Goddess:*** a time to draw inward & look for “the lost pieces of herself”
- **Future?**
- ***Urgent yearning to reconnect with the Feminine:*** heal the Mother-Daughter Split
- ***Integrating & healing the wounded parts of her inner Masculine***
- ***The Sacred Marriage:*** occurs as she learns to integrate & balance all aspects of herself, feminine & masculine, to love again

Jon Snow - transformations

- As the Orphan
- As the Warrior
- As the Lover – with the wildlings
- As the Commander
- Next -



Jon Snow

- Separation: *The Call to Adventure, Refusal of the Call, Supernatural Aid* (Ghost)
- Initiation: *Belly of the Whale, Road of Trials*
- *Meeting with the Goddess* – encounter with Ygritte
- Future?
- *& Atonement with the Father, Apotheosis, the Boon, Refusal of Return*
- Return: *Master of Two Worlds, Freedom to Live*



Jon Snow

- Themes of
 - Family, origin, search for identity
 - Coming of age to adulthood
 - The Mysterious - Ghost
 - Love, passion, friendship, agape
 - Sacrifice – honour, love, Winterfell - vs his vows & the good of the whole
 - Encounter with the Shadow, conversion of the enemy
 - Choices and consequences
 - Sacrifice, death and rebirth
- The Future?

Tyrion – Atypical hero

- Themes of
 - Good for Lannisters (Family) vs Good for Westeros
 - Love, passion, betrayal
 - Self-interest vs the good of the whole
 - Choices and consequences
 - Sacrifice, death and rebirth
- Is he still a hero?
- Future?



Atypical hero/heroines

- Tyrion
- Bran
- Davos
- Mance Rayder
- Oberyn Martell
- Transformation themes
- And some becoming heroes?
- And possible redemptions of failed heroes (Jorah)
- Brienne
- Sansa
- Meera
- Varys ?
- Illyrio Mopatis (of Pentos)?

So what makes a hero?

- Courage
- Ability
- Learn the right lessons from their mistakes & the consequences
- Higher order ethics
- Keep faith, have integrity & honour, justice
 - Hold to what is right, not what is expedient
 - Resist temptation to do what is easy or pleasurable
- Empathy & understanding even for one's enemies (Campbell calls "the gentle heart")
 - Jon Snow & the wildlings
- Selflessness, willing to sacrifice even one's life for the greater good
 - All the heroes

Lessons in everyday heroism

- Our personal hero's journey
- Jung, Campbell, Pearson & Murdock
- Jung: path of individuation
 - of becoming conscious of the unconscious personal archetypes within us
 - Persona, shadow, anima/animus, Self
- Transformation from crisis, devastating loss, loss of identity, "peak" or spiritual experiences

The journey's end

- A long way to go to Book 7!
 - The Winds of Winter
 - The Dream of Spring
- Prediction
 - Transformation
 - Transcendence
- We shall see!

Transcendence

- For Jung, “The transcendent function arises out of intense and concentrated conflicts within the individual. Like the koan of the Zen masters, extreme and painful paradoxes can lead us to a place where we must transcend the ego”.
- Transcendent function

When you play the Game of Thrones ...

- Weird AI Version
- Le Monde explanation
- The TV Show