



THE HEROIC JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is often a time of questions and confusion...

Am I normal?

Where do I fit in?

What is right? What is wrong?

What are my capabilities?

Who are my real friends?

How can I feel more grown up?

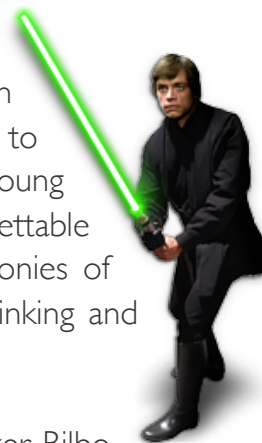
How can I be treated as more grown up?

What are my real limitations and my imagined ones?



The **Heroic Journey Program** is uniquely designed to answer these questions and has several main purposes. One is to provide information about the transition from childhood to adolescence and the journey to adulthood. Another is to provide links between generations to help young people make the journey safely. A third is to create challenging and unforgettable experiences, similar to those in the **initiation** or **rite of passage** ceremonies of various cultures. Along the way, it also helps students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills and become involved with their community.

One reason for the success of characters like Harry Potter, Luke Skywalker, Bilbo Baggins, or Katniss of the Hunger Games is because **all people travel similar metamorphic paths** through their lives. Most of us don't have to face a dragon or fight a foe as obviously menacing as Darth Vader, but we all run into **obstacles** on our way toward accomplishing a **goal**. We find that some people we meet are **helpful** in unexpected ways, and also that some pretend to be friends but are actually **enemies** or opportunists. Therefore, the "**Hero's Journey**" is really a metaphor for **life**. All us go through challenges, trials, and setbacks on the road to mastery of our lives. In the end, each of us is **heroic** in our own life story.



The Heroic Journey Program offers various **challenges, tasks, projects, and initiation experiences** in a structured environment with a rite of passage ceremony to help students make the transition into young adulthood in a **healthy** and **productive** way.