
LESSON 1-1

Introduction to the *Heroic Journey*

Overview

In this first lesson, you introduce the concept of a heroic journey by reading the summary of *Star Wars*. You draw parallels between Luke Skywalker's journey—his rite of passage into young adulthood—and the students' own journeys through the challenging world of adolescence. After giving a brief overview of the course, you give the students a letter introducing yourself as their guide on their own journeys. Then you have them introduce themselves by means of a letter to you.

Cognitive Objective

The students will be introduced to the concept of life transitions, rites of passage, and the elements of genuine heroism.

Affective Objective

The students will begin to recognize the magnitude of their task as adolescents and see that they are not isolated in accomplishing it.

Interactive Objective

Students will begin to recognize that each member of the class can help the others to face the challenge of growing up.

Material

1. Passports
2. copies of the *Star Wars* summary (page 8-1) if you plan to have the students read it individually
3. copies of your autobiographical letter to the students

Preparation

- ▶ If you're not already familiar with the summary, read it to learn as many of the students' names as possible.

Have students read this already. Inform students of this section on advance preparations for this lesson in the unit introduction and taken care of the items mentioned.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Introduction

Introduce yourself, including a bit of the information you included in your letter to the students. Tell why this class is different from others and why you're excited about it.

This class is very different from the others you take. It's about living. The focus isn't on academic learning, but on how to survive and succeed on your journey through adolescence to adulthood. I don't need to tell you how dangerous the teen years can be. What are some of the dangers you face?