**Literary Elements Characteristic of a Romance Archetype**

*A Romance represents the world as we wish it were, the ideal. It ALWAYS involves a quest.*

**Setting**: *The story is set in a world of innocence. Some evil will threaten it but the good will succeed.*

**Common Images**:

Garden

Sunlight and life

Friendly environment

Peace and harmony

Caves

Valleys

Hilltops and Mountains

Fire and water

Morning/Evening (daylight and night)

Thunder and lightning

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**Common Characters:**

The origins of the hero/heroine are often mysterious and the early years are obscure.

The hero/heroine may be youthful, lacking knowledge and experience,

Wise teacher/helper

Magician

Animals with special powers

Sidekick

Female roles are limited to the following: Witch, Temptress, Virgin/Maiden/Damsel in Distress, a Mother/Madonna figure, or Crone

The villain is an evil force who blocks the worthy actions of the hero/heroine.

**Villain images may include some or all of the following:**

Evil

Darkness

Monster (deformity)

Witch

Temptress

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**Plot -** *The plot contains conflict, adventure and triumph. The hero sets off on a quest to prove worthiness, or to exhibit strength or to find his identity and rightful place in the world.*

There is a perilous journey.

The hero engages in a crucial struggle with evil.

The hero is victorious and rewarded.

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**Common themes**

Good is more powerful than evil.

Love is more powerful than hate.

Innocence is more powerful than experience.

Redemption

The universe is friendly. Nature is cooperative.

Mistrust of technology

Destiny

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**Common Motifs or Conventions**

Hero/heroine with a special feature

Clairvoyant dreams or visions

Magical weapons

Animals with human traits

Shadow (dark side, or doubt) of the hero with which he must struggle

Heroic costumes that change the person wearing them