

# Archetypes in Modern Literature

- Read the following descriptions of twelve common character archetypes and examples from classic literature.
- Then, give an example of each character archetype from modern literature, and explain how that character fits the archetype.

Archetype	Examples	Description
<b>The Hero</b>	<b>Bilbo Baggins</b> ( <i>The Hobbit</i> ) <b>Jo March</b> ( <i>Little Women</i> )	the main character who goes on a journey—literal or figurative—that requires them to use knowledge and skills to overcome obstacles and solve the story's biggest problem
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Trickster</b>	<b>Loki</b> (Norse mythology) <b>Cheshire Cat</b> ( <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> )	a clever, funny, unpredictable, and sometimes mean character who loves playing pranks on others; often a master of escape or a shapeshifter
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Caregiver</b>	<b>Charlotte</b> ( <i>Charlotte's Web</i> ) <b>Samwise Gamgee</b> ( <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> series)	fulfilled by taking care of others; compassionate, helpful, and generous; dedicated to doing more for others than themselves
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Innocent</b>	<b>Snow White</b> ( <i>Grimms' Fairy Tales</i> ) <b>Tiny Tim</b> ( <i>A Christmas Carol</i> )	wants to bring happiness to all and believes in the good of everyone; even when in danger or suffering at the hands of their enemies, the Innocent is not capable of wishing harm on others
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>

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<b>The Sidekick</b>	<b>Dr. Watson</b> ( <i>Sherlock Holmes</i> stories) <b>Tinkerbell</b> ( <i>Peter Pan</i> )	a follower who is absolutely loyal to their leader, whether it is the story's hero or villain; though not known for bravery, when it comes to protecting their leader, they will do what it takes
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Villain</b>	<b>Miss Trunchbull</b> ( <i>Matilda</i> ) <b>Smaug</b> ( <i>The Hobbit</i> )	besides doing as much evil as possible, the Villain's sole purpose in a story is to defeat the hero; usually intimidating and powerful, but at their core, they are often insecure and weak
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Lover</b>	<b>Westley</b> ( <i>The Princess Bride</i> ) <b>Romeo and Juliet</b> ( <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> )	can only be truly complete when they are with their one true love or caring deeply for someone; wears their heart on their sleeve
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Creator</b>	<b>Willy Wonka</b> ( <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> ) <b>Tony Stark</b> ( <i>Iron Man</i> comics)	believes that anything that can be imagined can be created; tries to make dreams into reality; resourceful and ingenious; always questioning and thinking up new things to make
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>

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<b>The Rebel</b>	<b>Mulan</b> ( <i>The Ballad of Mulan</i> ) <b>Tom Sawyer</b> ( <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> )	an outsider or misfit who aims to better the world, though their means may be questionable; independent and radical; may shock others in order to shake them out of a false sense of security
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Ruler</b>	<b>Queen of Hearts</b> ( <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> ) <b>King Arthur</b> (Arthurian legends)	entirely responsible for their world and those in it; their power often grows out of control and leads to corruption in themselves or in another character who wants to steal the power
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Magician</b>	<b>Merlin</b> (Arthurian legends) <b>Sherlock Holmes</b> ( <i>Sherlock Holmes</i> stories)	possesses strong magical powers or intellectual abilities and a great knowledge of history and strategy; tends to suffer from excessive pride and can lose their temper when they don't get what they want
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>
<b>The Sage</b>	<b>Glinda the Good Witch</b> ( <i>The Wonderful Wizard of Oz</i> ) <b>Gandalf</b> ( <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> series)	someone known for their wisdom, experience, and insight who often shows kindness and compassion for others; usually helps guide the Hero on their journey
	<b>Modern Example:</b>	<b>Explanation:</b>