

Treasure Planet

Archplot Structure Analysis

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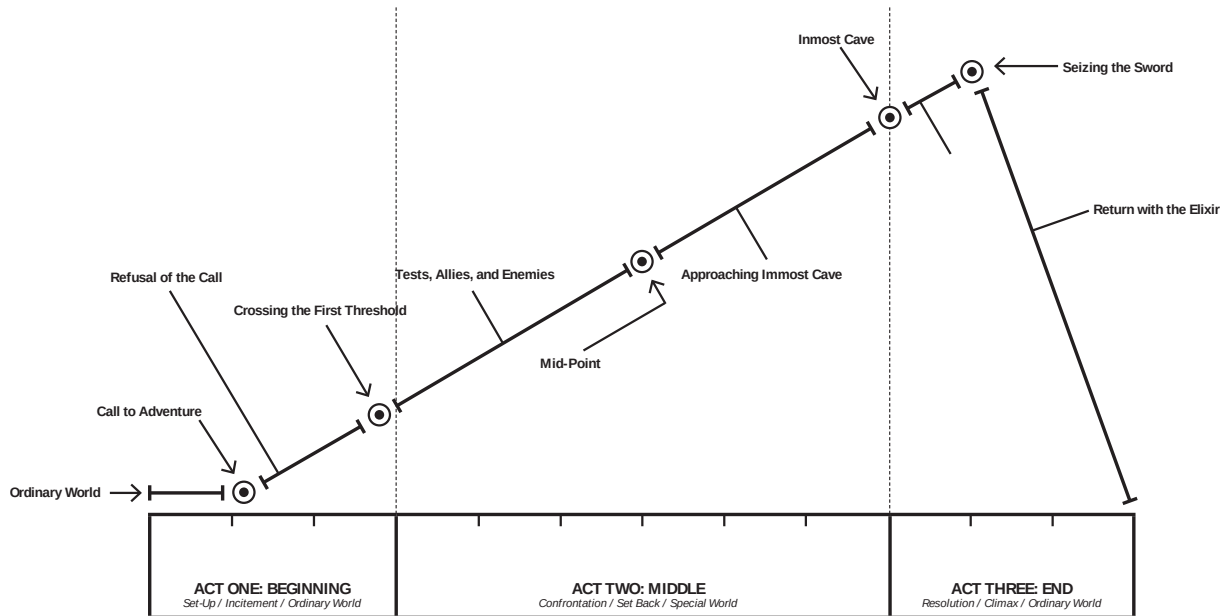


Figure 1: Structure of *The Hero's Journey* in function of time.

Treasure Planet

In this report, we will break down the plot structure of the movie *Treasure Planet*[2]. It follows a well-known plot structure *The Hero's Journey*[1] which is depicted in figure 1.

Ordinary World

As a child, the main character *Jim Hawkins* was enchanted by stories of a pirate named *Captain Flint* who mysteriously appeared out of nowhere to raid freight ships and soon after vanished. Legend says that the loot he stole was stashed on an unknown planet called *Treasure Planet*. It is clear that Jim was completely captivated by the adventures of spacers and was in a loving and tender relationship with his mother.

12 years later, we are re-introduced to Jim as somewhat of a misunderstood teenage rebel who clearly doesn't want his actions to hurt anyone – especially his mother – but doesn't understand how to or maybe feels it's pointless to communicate that to her. He knows

he keeps letting her down but has resigned himself to the idea that he has no future, so why should he worry? He reluctantly helps his mother *Sarah* run the family's Benbow Inn and derives amusement from skysurfing on a rocket-powered sailboard.

Call to Adventure

One day, a spaceship crash lands near the Benbow Inn. Jim runs out to help the dying pilot, who hands him a metal sphere and tells him to beware of the cyborg. Shortly after, a gang of pirates show up and burn down the Inn. Jim and his mother escape along with a dog-like friend *Dr. Delbert Doppler*, who offers them shelter at his study.

Refusal of the Call

At Doppler's study, they discover that the sphere Jim was given is actually a holographic projector, showing a star map that leads to the location of *Treasure Planet*. Jim's mother, being a mother, is of course opposed to the idea

of Jim and Doppler going on a dangerous adventure for something that might not even exist – Treasure Planet is just a legend after all.

Jim feels like the Inn burning down was his fault and he wants to redeem himself by going on this adventure, finding the treasure, and funding a rebuild of the Inn.

Sarah, the mother, eventually agrees and Jim and Dr. Doppler commission a ship called the *RLS Legacy* on a mission to find Treasure Planet.

Crossing the First Threshold

Jim and Doppler are introduced to the captain, *Captain Amelia*, a cat-like English woman, along with her stone-skinned and disciplined first mate *Mr. Arrow*. Jim is further introduced to the ship's cook, *John Silver*, who turns out to be a cyborg. Jim suspects this is the cyborg he was warned about.

The ship sets sail and they are off to an adventure!

Tests, Allies, and Enemies

There are many incidences that occur on the ship during their journey through space.

It is revealed that Jim's father abandoned him at an early age. Silver, the cyborg Jim is suspicious of, ends up growing closer and fills the father-son role Jim never had as a child. He's tough on Jim but also ends up teaching him a lot of skills.

It also becomes clear that the crew is secretly being led by Silver, and they are planning a mutiny.

The ship encounters a supernova which turns into a black hole. This moment in the movie tests who is allied with whom. Among the chaos, Jim ends up saving Silver from falling into the black hole, thus saving his life. Arrow, the captain's first mate, ends up falling into the black hole as a result of a shady spider-like crew member cutting his lifeline on purpose.

Mid-Point

Jim overhears Silver's real plan and learns that the crew are pirates. As they reach Treasure Planet, mutiny erupts. Jim, Dr. Doppler, and Amelia abandon the ship along with what they at the time believe to be the map. An important moment here is when Silver has the opportunity to shoot and kill Jim, but can't do it. They crash land on the surface of Treasure Planet in an escape ship and seek cover in a hideout.

Approaching Inmost Cave

While exploring Treasure Planet's forests, they meet B.E.N., an abandoned robot, who lost his primary memory circuits. The robot invites them into its shelter.

It turns out the map they thought they had was in fact a fake copy, and the real map was still aboard the ship. The pirates, though, still believe that Jim is in possession of the map.

They learn about the planet center being a gigantic machine filled with tunnels. Jim uses this to his advantage to slip by the pirates, who are now searching for them, and to steal the pirate's escape ship and go back to the main ship to retrieve the real map.

He successfully retrieves the map and returns to the planet's surface, but finds Doppler and Amelia captured by the Silver and his pirates.

Inmost Cave

Only Jim knows how to unlock the map, so Silver forces Jim to use the map and in return agrees to spare their lives. The map leads them to a portal which can be opened to any location in the galaxy. This is how Captain Flint was able to appear out of nowhere and disappear again. They open the portal to the planet's center and find the treasure of a thousand worlds.

Seizing the Sword

The planet was rigged with booby traps, which triggered as they entered the planet's core.

The entire planet is set to blow in just a few minutes and begins falling apart.

Jim finds an old ship among the gold and is able to start it up. Silver sees Jim doing this and decides to try and take the ship for himself. As Silver confronts Jim, a violent eruption from the planet's core bumps him off the ship and leaves him hanging off of a cliff, one which would surely kill him if he were to let go. Silver is left to make a choice: Either he takes the ship filled with treasure and leaves Jim to die, or he abandons the ship and saves Jim's life. He chooses to do the latter.

Final Push

Jim, Silver, Doppler and Amelia have just minutes to escape the exploding planet. They do so with the original ship, the RLS Legacy, and fly it through the portal to safety.

Return with Elixir

Silver parts ways with Jim, as he doesn't want to be arrested and jailed for the crimes he has committed. Jim returns with pockets full of treasure and rebuilds the Inn with his mother.

Sometime later, a party is hosted at the rebuilt Inn, where Doppler and Amelia are married, have children of their own, and Jim becomes a military cadet.

References

- [1] *Hero's Journey*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hero%27s_journey. accessed 2017-10-29.
- [2] *Treasure Planet*. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0133240/>. accessed 2017-10-29. 2003.