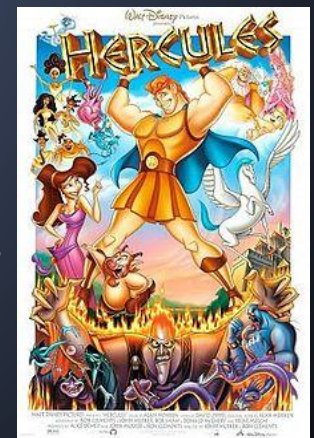


# The Hero's Journey: Hercules

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# Background

Hercules, son of Greek gods Zeus and Hera, was a Greek hero known for his superior strength. The story begins with the birth of Hercules, after Zeus imprisons the Titans and Hades (Zeus' brother) wants to overthrow Zeus and rule Mount Olympus. Hades learns that a planetary alignment will occur in 18 years, which will allow him to find and free the Titans as long as Hercules doesn't interfere. As a result, Hades sends his minions Pain and Panic, who feed Hercules a formula that turns him into a mortal. However, Hercules' great strength is not removed in the process.



## Background (continued)

Hercules discovers that he's adopted when he is a teenager, and his foster parents reveal his necklace from his childhood. This leads him to seek answers from the temple of Zeus, where Zeus' statue comes to life and tells Hercules everything. He also tells Hercules that in order to regain his godhood, he must become a true hero.



# Hero Cycle



*The character is charged with a quest*

Hercules' quest is to become a god once again and to regain his power. After he finds out that he is the son of Zeus, he wants to regain his immortality.

# Hero Cycle



*The character is tested along the way*  
Hercules faces challenges that make it harder for him to get where he wants to. He is faced with the character of Meg who is put in his way by Hades. He loses his power once because he wanted to save her life. He risks his own life multiple times in order to keep her safe.

# Hero Cycle

*Mythical creatures help the character*

Pegasus, Hercules' winged horse, helps him travel to Olympus where they free the gods and defeat the Titans together.



# Hero Cycle



*The character travels to other worlds*

Hercules travels from Earth to Olympus, home of the gods, as well as the Underworld, where he gets Hades to free Meg after she dies and becomes Hades' property.



# Hero Cycle



*The character reaches a low point*

Hercules makes a deal with Hades. He promises to give up his strength to Hades to keep Meg from harm. After Hades agrees, he then reveals that Meg was working for him the whole time. Hades takes advantage of Hercules weakness and starts chaos on Earth and on Mount Olympus with the newly released Titans.



# Hero Cycle

## *The character is resurrected*

As weak Hercules tries to fight off one of the Titans, he realizes that one doesn't need to be strong to fight so he defeats the Titan. As the Titan was plummeting to its death, it knocked over a pillar that was nearly about to crush Hercules. Meg pushes him out of the way but then she gets crushed by the large pillar. Since Meg got hurt and Hades promised that she wouldn't, the deal was broken and Hercules got his strength back. He was finally able to fight off Hades and the Titans and also wanted to save Meg's life.



# Hero Cycle

## *Restitution is found*

Hercules, with the aid of Pegasus, defeats all the Titans and races back to check on Meg. Just seconds before he arrives, she passed away. Hercules goes to Hades to get her back. Hercules has to dive into the River of Styx to retrieve her soul. He goes in, not knowing if he'd come back alive or not. As his life slowly dies out, he suddenly becomes immortal and retrieves her soul. Hercules reunites with Meg and together, they both head up to Mount Olympus and are welcomed to live with the Gods. Instead, Hercules asks to live on Earth with Meg and they lived happily ever after.

