

Heroism and Its Stages Depicted in J.K. Rowling's *The Christmas Pig*

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to discuss Jack's hero's journey stages and how he encountered obstacles in The Christmas Pig. This study was categorized into literary criticism using a psychological approach by applying Campbell's hero's journey theory (2004) and supported by Allison & Goethals' theory of obstacles (2011) in the hero's journey. The data were taken from words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs in the novel The Christmas Pig by J.K. Rowling. The data were identified and interpreted, and then the conclusion was drawn. There were two results from this study. First, Jack passed all seventeen stages of the hero's adventure stages involving the call to adventure, refusal of the call, supernatural aid, the crossing of the first threshold, belly of the whale, the road of trials, the meeting with the goddess, woman as the temptress, atonement with the father, apotheosis, the ultimate boon, refusal of the return, the magic flight, rescue from without, the crossing of the return threshold, master of the two worlds, and freedom to live. Second, Jack encountered the obstacles by getting help from the allies, using his intelligence, being tough and patient, strong determined, and optimistic. In summary, Jack's hero's journey was completed, but it was not easy and full of obstacles. The researcher suggested further researchers to analyze The Christmas Pig by applying post-modernism, structuralism, or symbolism and analyzing different literary works using Campbell's hero's journey theory.

Keywords: hero, hero's journey, obstacles, The Christmas Pig

INTRODUCTION

As human beings, we cannot be separated from a process or journey while facing many obstacles that become a trial when achieving a goal. Therefore, humans need to struggle, push themselves beyond their limits, or sometimes they need help from others to pass those problems and reach their goals. Not only in real life, but we can also find this

phenomenon through the hero character in hero-themed fiction works, such as Harry Potter in the *Harry Potter* novel series and Bilbo Baggins in *The Hobbit*. The hero is defined as somebody who departs from their daily life to complete a duty or goal and then returns with victories (Campbell, 2004). In other words, a hero will experience a hero's journey as a process that will build and change them into a better version of themselves (Rose, 2019).

Along the journey, a hero carrying out a task will, of course, be presented with various kinds of challenges. They will meet friends and enemies, face doubts, and find determination as well as courage. Hence, a hero is willing to take serious consequences, not only for themselves but also for the sake of others (Becker & Eagly, 2004). The risky tasks that heroes face will force them to show their abilities, especially their heroic characteristics. Kinsella et al. (2015) mention that at least eight qualities distinguish a hero, including proactive, risk-taker, fearless, caring, compassionate, leadership skills, intelligence, and talented. Accordingly, a hero, consciously or unconsciously, can perform extraordinary actions like representing goodness and moral values, thus, they have been admired and respected in societies throughout history (Kohen, 2014).

This study analyzed J.K. Rowling's *The Christmas Pig* as the research object. This novel offers the main character's adventure with the same pattern as Campbell's hero's journey. In addition, since *The Christmas Pig* is a children's literature novel, it is essential for being a medium of education, entertainment, and motivation, especially for children (Baratz & Hazeira, 2012). When an author writes a children's story, he/she mostly takes children as the protagonists, and these kids take part in various adventures (Dilshoda & Gulchekhra, 2020). Therefore, Jack, the main character in *The Christmas Pig*, shows the heroine's characteristics such as strong determination, courage, and never giving up.

The researcher believes that the hero's journey is a worthy topic to be explored since it gives us a strong reminder, motivation, and education. Zimbardo (2007, p. 461) argues that "heroes' stories serve as powerful reminders that people are capable of resisting evil." Besides, the heroes can influence our behavior by inspiring us to do good and not to give up quickly (Goethals & Allison, 2012). They also become role models as symbols of bravery and sacrifice for children (Rosianah, Kuncara, & Valiantien, 2018). For those reasons, this study aims to discuss Jack's hero's journey stages and how he overcame obstacles in *The Christmas Pig*. Thus, two research questions are proposed: 1) What are the stages of the hero's journey portrayed by Jack in J.K. Rowling's *The Christmas Pig*? 2) How does Jack encounter the obstacles he faced in J.K. Rowling's *The Christmas Pig*?

Furthermore, this study has some focus and significance. First, this study analyzed *The Christmas Pig* by J.K. Rowling, published on October 12, 2021, by Hachette Children's in the United Kingdom, with 218 pages. Second, this research studied Jack, the heroine character of *The Christmas Pig*. Next, the other focus of the study is on Jack's hero's journey stages and how Jack encountered the obstacles he faced and adopted Campbell's Monomyth theory and Allison and Goethals' theory of obstacles. Moreover, this study is expected to serve benefits practically for literary criticism. For the researcher, it is a means of criticism and appreciation of literary works, especially the novel *The Christmas Pig* by J.K. Rowling. For the readers, it will facilitate those interested in studying the protagonist's heroism journey.

Since *The Christmas Pig* is a new novel, no research has examined it yet. However, at least ten research have been found using the same subject and theory. First, there are two theses, each from Rahmayanti (2018) and Amalia (2020), which discuss the main character's hero's journey in different novels using Campbell's Monomyth theory. Rahmayanti and Amalia have the same result in which the main character has become a hero by passing seventeen hero's journey stages completely. Second, there are theses from Mappuji (2019) and seven journals each from Noor (2020), Rosianah, Kuncara, and Valientien (2018), Wicaksono (2020), Munjid and Damayanti (2020), Erliani, Kuncara, and Lubis (2019), Nurdaryana and Evyanto (2019), and Fakruddin (2019) which analyze eight different novels applying Campbell's Monomyth theory. They all have the same result in which the main character has passed not all of the seventeen stages of the hero's journey; nevertheless, they concluded that the main character still becomes a hero.

This study applied Joseph Campbell's theory of hero's journey or Monomyth and was supported by Allison & Goethals' theory of obstacles in hero's journey. According to Campbell (2004), the hero's journey theory discusses the phases that a hero must go through to be called the hero, which consists of three major phases and seventeen stages of the journey. He also said that although the stories of heroes from time to time are different, each of their stories has a similar story pattern, forming a hero cycle about going and returning (Campbell, 2021). Meanwhile, obstacles are all kinds of challenges and difficulties that a hero must face to complete his journey. The obstacles faced by a hero arise from some factors. They can come from external (physical) and internal (psychological) (Allison & Goethals, 2011). While for fictional heroes, obstacles commonly come in the form of villains (Allison & Goethals, 2011). The two theories support each other to analyze *The Christmas Pig* from the perspective of the hero's journey so that it will produce new results considering that few studies still explore obstacles in the hero's journey.

RESEARCH METHOD

This current study is included into literary criticism because it analyzes a literary work that is novel (Abrams & Harpham, 2012). Since the focus of the study is centered on the main character, therefore, it used literary psychology as the approach, which then applied the theory of hero's journey by Joseph Campbell (2004) and supported with the theory of obstacles in hero's journey by Allison and Goethals (2011). Then, the research data are words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs taken from the first edition of a printed novel entitled *The Christmas Pig* written by J.K. Rowling, published by Hachette Children's in London, United Kingdom, on October 12, 2021, consisting of 218 pages with 58 chapters. Next, the data were collected by close reading, annotating, and gathering based on the topic. Finally, the collected data were analyzed by sorting, classifying, describing, interpreting, and drawing conclusions.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Jack's hero's journey stages

This point describes the stages of the hero's journey experienced by Jack. The theory used is the theory of Monomyth by Campbell. Jack adventures in the Land of the Lost with a mission to find his lost toy named Dur Pig until he successfully completes it and returns to

the Land of the Living. He goes through all three main phases of the hero's journey from separation, initiation, and return and goes through all seventeen stages.

Separation

The Call to Adventure

The hero's journey could be started from a blunder and come from a dream magically, where there are figures who come as a guide at the beginning of the journey (Campbell, 2004). In this novel, Jack's journey begins with a blunder arising from the conflict that is the mistake he made to Holly and also from his dream on Christmas Eve.

'She threw DP out of the window!' bellowed Jack. 'She threw DP out of the window!' (Rowling, 2021, p. 29)

'Christmas Eve,' said Jack. 'Exactly,' said the Christmas Pig. 'And that means there's a chance – just for one night, we couldn't do it at any other time – that we can get your pig back.' (Rowling, 2021, p. 37)

The quotes above show that Jack gets an adventure call when Dur Pig goes missing and continues when Christmas Pig invites him to find his lost pig. Jack's mistake, which annoyed Holly, his step-sister, led to a blunder. As a result, Holly felt so angry and threw Dur Pig from the car. After that, on Christmas Eve, Jack dreams that the toys in his room are alive and can talk. The suddenly alive Christmas Pig tells Jack and invites him on an adventure to save Dur Pig. Those two moments became the beginning of Jack's heroic journey.

Refusal of the Call

In this stage, the hero thinks that the adventure he faces will bring negativity (Campbell, 2004). Therefore, the hero refuses to join the journey because he is unprepared, uninterested, or unfamiliar with the new zone. In *The Christmas Pig*, Jack refuses to go on an adventure in the Land of the Lost because he does not believe this place exists.

'There's no such place as the Land of the Lost,' said Jack scornfully. 'You're making that up.' (Rowling, 2021, p. 37)

Jack does not accept Christmas Pig's invitation because he thinks the Land of the Lost is not a real place. Jack only thinks that Christmas Pig's talk is nonsense. Christmas Pig only makes it up because Jack thinks the existing world is the world he lives in or the Land of the Living. On the other hand, Jack prefers to believe that Dur Pig disappeared in the last place, namely on the motorway.

Supernatural Aid

Supernatural aid signifies when a hero meets someone who provides assistance and insights, called a mentor. According to Campbell (2004), the aid can be in the form of a protective figure who gives help, confidence, advice, and magical gifts such as amulets or weapons to the hero. In this case, Jack gets aid from Christmas Pig.

'If you love DP enough to risk your life, then I'm ready to take you with me into the Land of the Lost, and we'll see whether we can bring him home again.' (Rowling, 2021, p. 38)

The data above proves that Christmas Pig will later become a protective figure for Jack. As Campbell (2004) said, this protective figure will help a hero on his journey. Christmas Pig is depicted as a wise older man with much experience. He had entered and explored the Land of the Lost; as a result, he understood the conditions and the possibilities if they went there. In accordance with that, Christmas Pig gave aid to Jack in the form of assistance by accompanying him and providing many suggestions and directions for Jack.

The Crossing of the First Threshold

At this stage, a hero will cross the initial threshold to enter the world where he is adventuring. When crossing this threshold, a hero will meet the threshold guardian. This threshold guardian must be defeated before continuing the journey (Campbell, 2004). Here, Jack passes through foreign worlds in a magical way he has never experienced.

Several seconds later, Jack realized that the bed hadn't grown at all. He'd shrunk. (Rowling, 2021, p. 40)

A gigantic four-legged beast had risen up in front of them: a monster with long yellow teeth, shaggy fur, and gleaming eyes. With a deep bark the monster launched itself at the Christmas Pig, skidding on the lino and almost catching the pig between its dangerous jaws. (Rowling, 2021, p. 42)

At first, Jack suddenly turned small without realizing it. The shrinkage that Jack experienced indicated his first step toward the strange world. Then, after shrinking, Jack also meets the threshold guardian. The guardian he faces is Toby the dog, a pet dog in Gran's house. He chased Jack and Christmas Pig in the kitchen. The threshold that Jack has crossed is in accordance with Campbell's assumptions. It can be seen that Jack crossed the threshold by reducing to the size of a toy and then passed through the kitchen to hide from Toby the Dog as the threshold guardian.

Belly of the Whale

This stage is the final gateway from the ordinary world to the dangerous one. Campbell (2004) analogized this stage where a hero is like being swallowed by a whale and trapped in his stomach, swallowed into the unknown, and would appear to have died. In this novel, Jack arrives at the belly of the whale after passing through a magical portal that made him fall sucked.

Their surroundings became gradually lighter until Jack realized they were both sinking through their own column of golden light. (Rowling, 2021, p. 47)

As their surroundings became lighter still, Jack realized that he was inside a gigantic building like a warehouse, with immensely high brick walls and many holes peppering the wooden ceiling. (Rowling, 2021, p. 48)

The dark portal that Jack goes through represents a whale's belly that is so dark there is no way out. It is the stage that a hero undergoes a transition to the unknown world and will face the risk of danger on his journey. Campbell (2004) calls it the regions of the unknown such as desert, jungle, deep sea, or alien Land, which are dangerous and full of risks. In accordance with that, Jack has been swallowed into an unknown world that is the Land of the Lost, a strange and magical world that Jack has never known and visited before.

Table 1. Jack's separation stages

| Separation | Description |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| The Call to Adventure | Jack loses his Dur Pig and gets a call from Christmas Pig |
| Refusal of the call | Jack thinks the Land of the Lost is unreal |
| Supernatural Aid | Jack gets the aid from Christmas Pig as his helper |
| The Crossing of the First Threshold | Jack shrinks and faces Toby the Dog |
| Belly of the Whale | Jack sinks through the golden light column |

Initiation

The Road of Trials

This sixth stage contains the obstacles that require the hero to find a way to overcome them. Campbell (2004) believes that the hero begins to move through a dream world with strangely fluid and unknown shapes, where he has to get through a series of tests. In this story, Jack goes through several trials in the Land of the Lost until before he meets the Loser.

'I'm worried,' said the Christmas Pig suddenly. 'What about?' asked Jack. 'About how we're going to get you past the Loss Adjustors without them realizing you're human,' said the Christmas Pig. (Rowling, 2021, p. 56)

'The rumours are true! There are Things down here that shouldn't be! I've just received a description: a cuddly pig and an action figure in pyjamas! (Rowling, 2021, p. 94)

Among these trials, both of them happen when Jack has to face problems with the Loss Adjustors and Major Cheese Grater as the boss. This stage represents Jack as a hero who faces dragons, as Campbell (2004) said, who need to be slain, and the barriers that stand in his way many times.

The first quote shows Jack's trial in which he needs to pass the Loss Adjustors to get through the three doors without being discovered that he is not a toy. Jack can get past it by manipulating his background, not as a human but as an action figure toy. Next, as seen in the second quote, Jack's further trial occurs when Mayor Cheese Grater reveals Jack's disguise so that he becomes a fugitive in the Land of the Lost. Those trials lead him to the next stage of the hero's journey.

The Meeting with the Goddess

At this stage, a hero will meet the goddess on his journey. Campbell (2004) symbolizes the hero's meeting with the goddess as "a mystical marriage of the triumphant hero-soul with the Queen Goddess of the World" (p. 100). In addition, this goddess is often

described as a woman who can attract and guide the hero. In *The Christmas Pig*, Jack meets Lunchbox and Old Compass, who help and guide him to move from one town to another town in the Land of the Lost.

'I know you didn't want to help, but thanks all the same, Lunchy!' the Christmas Pig whispered, and he patted her gently on the lid. 'You were very rude,' the lunchbox whispered back, 'but I hope the Loser doesn't get you. Good luck!' (Rowling, 2021, p. 87)

'Please help them cross the Wastes, my dear old friend. Without your aid, they risk a gruesome end.' 'Course I'll 'elp, course I will!' said the merry voice. 'You know 'ow much I loves adventures! (Rowling, 2021, pp. 107-108)

Lunchbox and Old Compass are not Jack's lovers but a guide by providing aid. Jack's meeting with the goddess in this novel differs slightly from Campbell's theory. Jack met the goddesses, Lunchbox and Old Compass, not by being in love with each other but these goddesses were two things that were exceptionally meritorious to Jack in helping him across the towns in the Land of the Lost.

Woman as the Temptress

In this stage, a woman appears who becomes a test for the hero. She is present as a temptation that will make the hero fall for his mission. The woman then is described as the figure of the mother-destroyer, in which the hero becomes a father figure who is controlled by that woman (Campbell, 2004). Jack's temptress comes from one of the Bad Habits voices.

Jack heard Holly's voice somewhere out in the darkness. 'Please no – please no – argh!' 'Jack, come on!' shouted the Christmas Pig, because Jack had stopped running and was trying to pull free of his grip. 'Holly!' said Jack. 'He's got Holly!' 'It isn't Holly, you know it isn't Holly!' said the Christmas Pig, dragging Jack onwards with both trotters. (Rowling, 2021, p. 127)

The data above shows that Jack gets a temptation by a female voice which is Holly's voice. Holly's screams that sounded from the darkness when the Loser was about to catch her made Jack could not bear it and would feel guilty if he did not help him. Holly becomes a mother-destroyer figure by being present as a shadow of Jack's mistakes to her before Jack embarks on his heroic journey.

Atonement with the Father

This stage is described as the meeting between a child and his father, where the father figure here holds the rules and the authority. In the hero's journey, the hero will come to a phase where he meets a father figure who is more powerful than the hero (Campbell, 2004). In *The Christmas Pig*, Jack later meets the father as his main enemy, the Loser.

The searchlights were his eyes, and they swung over the snowy wastes as the Loser turned his giant head this way and that. He was so tall that Jack could actually hear the top of his head scraping on the high wooden sky as his blinding eyes scanned the ground for Things to eat. (Rowling, 2021, p. 124)

The Loser is the ruling father figure in the Land of the Lost. He is like a tall giant robot with a scary form. The Loser holds power by making rules that must be obeyed. In Jack's heroic journey, the Loser will become the father that Jack needs to defeat to become a hero. Although Jack fears, somehow, the Loser needs to be defeated by Jack because of the possibility of Dur Pig being hidden by him.

Apotheosis

Apotheosis becomes a stage where a hero experiences a turning point that makes it seem like he is reborn at a higher level. The hero is described as going to rebirth, knowing what he should actually do in his quest (Campbell, 2004). He will gain insight into the real purpose of his journey and become a better person. Jack arrived at his apotheosis when he met Dur Pig again on the Island of the Beloved and got the truth about Christmas Pig and his mission.

'Jack,' said DP, placing his trotter around Jack's shoulders again, 'my brother always knew he wouldn't be able to return to the Land of the Living with you. Now that my body's been destroyed Up There, the only way I can leave the Land of the Lost is if a toy just like me makes up the Loser's numbers. The Christmas Pig decided to take my place. (Rowling, 2021, pp. 177-178)

The quote shows that Dur Pig is telling the truth to Jack about Christmas Pig, who has sacrificed himself as a substitute for Dur Pig to be eaten by the Loser. Jack's apotheosis makes him realize he needed something else all along rather than victory in his quest. Jack is described as being reborn by realizing that what he needs to do is save Christmas Pig from the Loser's Lair. Jack decides to return to the Wastes and find Christmas Pig to bring him home. Jack has found the meaning of sacrifice and responsibility.

The Ultimate Boon

In this stage, the hero will get a reward as an appreciation of their struggles to complete the quest. The hero will get what he is looking for and beat the villain. Campbell (2004) analogizes this stage to signify that the hero's adventure has been accomplished; the hero is described as a superior man, a born king. Jack gets his boon in *The Christmas Pig* when he returns to the Wastes to save Christmas Pig and defeats the Loser.

'I'm human and I care about you! You aren't garbage to me and I know how to get you out of here!' And with these words, the giant padlock on the Christmas Pig's cage shattered. (Rowling, 2021, p. 199)

'They're going to be recycled!' Jack shouted, as the monstrous creature tried to catch the Things rising so fast beyond his grip. 'Up There, and live again!' 'No!' shrieked the Loser, wild with rage. 'People can't have them! They're mine, they're mine, they belong to me— (Rowling, 2021, pp. 199-200)

Jack has passed the ultimate boon on his way. He got what he was looking for by finding and bringing home Christmas Pig and saving the Land of the Lost from the evil power of the Loser. Jack saves Christmas Pig and even the other things from the Loser by convincing them to hope they deserve to be loved. Thus, the Loser's body which is made of

so many things, is destroyed because they are all sucked in and will be recycled. With a boon or reward that the hero has obtained, the next phase will lead him to the process of returning to the hero's home.

Table 2. Jack's Initiation Stages

| Initiation | Description |
|------------------------------|--|
| The Road of Trials | Jack faces the Loss Adjustors and Mayor Cheese Grater |
| The Meeting with the Goddess | Jack meets Lunchbox and Old Compass as his goddesses |
| Woman as the Temptress | Jack hears Holly's scream |
| Atonement with the Father | Jack finally meets the Loser |
| Apotheosis | Jack meets Dur Pig and finds his real mission of the journey |
| The Ultimate Boon | Jack saves Christmas Pig and defeats the Loser |

Return

Refusal of the Return

A hero will decline to return from the new world because of getting problems, unfinished tasks, and feeling comfortable in a new place. As cited by Campbell (2004), King Muchukunda would not return but rather retreat due to the problem arising after he got the boon. In this case, Jack refuses to go home because he wants to take Christmas Pig home to the Land of the Living.

'I'm not leaving without you,' said Jack, still trying to break the padlock, but it wouldn't shift.
(Rowling, 2021, p. 196)

The quote above shows that Jack does not want to return to the Land of the Living before rescuing Christmas Pig. Realizing that Christmas Pig is a worthy toy for him, Jack does not want Christmas Pig to be a victim just to be eaten by the Loser. Hence, he decides to return to the Loser's lair and tries to free Jack from the padlock.

The Magic Flight

A hero will experience the magic flight where he will move from the dangerous to his ordinary world. Campbell (2004) states that marvels of magical obstruction and evasion may complicate this magic flight. Here, Jack experiences a magic flight late after rescue from without that comes first. Jack experiences flight by going through sparkling finding holes.

'...the sparkling, circling light descended in a spiral and whooshed up inside it hundreds and hundreds of astonished, delighted Things. (Rowling, 2021, p. 199)

Those holes brought Jack to the flight process. The finding holes suck Jack into the Land of the Living. The position of the golden sparkling finding holes is the same as the column of golden light in the Belly of the Whale. They link the Land of the Living with the Land of the Lost. Both of them take Jack across two different worlds miraculously.

Rescue From Without

This stage describes a hero who will get 'rescue' to return to his home. Campbell (2004) says that "the hero may have to be brought back from his supernatural adventure by assistance from without. That is to say, the world may have to come and get him" (p. 12). Jack got the rescue from without before the magic flight, where he managed to convince the things in the Loser's Lair to continue hoping they would be recycled.

He'd given the Things hope, which no lock can contain. (Rowling, 2021, p. 199)

The quotations above show that the hope of Jack and the things is the rescue that will save them from the Loser. The rescue they get is not from other people or other things but comes from their own belief in the form of hope. As a result, their hopes are getting bigger, making the padlocks open magically. This hope causes the things to be sucked in by the golden sparkling finding holes in the Land of the Living to be recycled.

The Crossing of the Return Threshold

At this stage, the hero will pass the path to return to his ordinary world. It is described as coming back out of that yonder zone (Campbell, 2004). The hero crosses the border or path and returns to his ordinary life before. In this story, Jack crosses the threshold miraculously again to return to his home.

He was curled up on the floor beneath the Christmas tree at home, in the middle of all the presents, the tree lights gleaming in the darkness above him. (Rowling, 2021, p. 204)

The data above shows Jack, who was fell and disappeared from the Loser's Lair. Jack suddenly felt himself being sucked down. Here Jack passed the same path where he entered the Land of the Lost. The moment coincided with Christmas Eve, which had really ended, therefore, Jack's return process was so fast, as fast as Jack closed his eyes and then was moved to his home. It can be seen that Jack successfully completed the quest and returned from his adventure. Jack returns to the Land of the Living as the returning hero who succeeded in bringing Christmas Pig back.

Master of the Two Worlds

The hero is described as having the talent to balance his real world and the yonder world, like Jesus, who transfigured into the guide, the way, the vision, and the return companion after His heroic journey (Campbell, 2004). As the returning hero, Jack can be a master of two worlds because he succeeded in carrying out his quest and remembering everything he experienced in the Land of the Lost and telling it to his family in his house.

'...and Jack told Holly all about Disposable and Sheriff Specs, about Lunchbox and Inhaler, about Bother-It's-Gone, Addie and Poem, about their long journey across the Wastes of the Unlamented, Compass, Blue Bunny, the strange Things he'd met in the City of the Missed, and their escape from the Loser's Lair. (Rowling, 2021, p. 206)

Jack still remembers and even memorizes his journeys and adventures in the Land of the Lost. Jack's journey seems to stick in his memory, becoming an unforgettable

experience for him. Here, Jack indicates that he understands the Land of the Lost's circumstances. Hence, Jack has become a 'master' between the Land of the Living and the Land of the Lost.

Freedom to Live

This stage becomes the result of miraculous passage and returns, and the hero is also the champion of things becoming rather than things becoming because he is (Campbell, 2004). Besides, the hero has developed into someone wiser in looking at the world. In this story, Jack learns a valuable lesson about the meaning of family, friendship, and sacrifice. Ultimately, he also felt the peace and happiness he was looking for.

'But I think you should stop doing gymnastics. I know you're not enjoying it anymore and you'd rather do music.' 'How – how did you know that?' said Holly, amazed. 'I haven't told anyone!' 'You find things out, in the Land of the Lost,' said Jack wisely. (Rowling, 2021, p. 207)

The data above shows that Jack has developed into a wise boy. In addition, he felt his hard work paid off with happiness when he could get back together with Christmas Pig. When Jack got home, Jack was happy to see Holly again, and vice versa. They both apologized for their mistakes that had bullied and annoyed each other. At this point, Jack has become a hero. He has been freed from his mission and has found what he was looking for. Jack has experienced spiritual life as well as heroic deeds while undertaking his hero's journey.

Table 3. Jack's return stages

| Return | Description |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| The Refusal of the Return | Jack refuses to go home before saving Christmas Pig |
| The Magic Flight | Jack flies across the holes |
| Rescue from Without | Jack gets rescued with the hope |
| The Crossing of the Return Threshold | Jack returns beneath the Christmas tree |
| Master of the Two Worlds | Jack masters the Land of the Lost's circumstances |
| Freedom to Live | Jack turns into a wiser boy |

Jack's Ways to Encounter Obstacles

This part analyzes the way Jack encounters the obstacles he faces in his journey. Those obstacles will be divided into three kinds involving external obstacles, internal obstacles, and the villain (Allison & Goethals, 2011). Even though Jack has passed his hero's journey, he has to face many obstacles.

The Way Jack Encounters External (Physical) Obstacles

Getting Help from the Allies

Jack would not have been able to pass the obstacles without the help of his friends. Most of the help comes when Jack faces external obstacles where he will move from one city to another in the Land of the Lost.

'Lunchy?' said the Christmas Pig, prodding her side. 'Are you awake?' 'Yes,' she whispered back. 'Let us out, please, and don't forget: if you tell anyone you saw us, we'll tell them you helped us!' (Rowling, 2021, p. 86)

A door had flown open, and an urgent voice said, 'Quickly! Come inside – you'll thank me later! We can hide you–' (Rowling, 2021, p. 100)

Please help them cross the Wastes, my dear old friend. Without your aid, they risk a gruesome end.' 'Course I'll 'elp, course I will!' said the merry voice. (Rowling, 2021, pp. 107-108)

His friends help him by providing lots of advice and information about what Jack does not know about the Land of the Lost. In addition, they also helped Jack hide when Major Cheese Grater was hunting him. It is possible that if Jack does not get help from Lunchbox, Poem and Pretence, and Old Compass, then he can get caught by the Loss Adjustors, cannot get past Sheriff Specs, or even escape the Capture Team so Jack cannot continue his mission.

Using Jack's Intelligence

Jack also overcame his external obstacles using his intelligence. It means that a hero has the ability to solve problems with his own ideas and ways. It reflects the characteristics of a hero himself, where they have competencies and talents (Kinsella, Ritchie, & Igou, 2015).

'If we crawl behind the tree,' Jack whispered to the Christmas Pig, 'we could sneak back out of the room while he thinks we're still under here, and go to the kitchen door after all.' (Rowling, 2021, p. 44)

Jack suddenly gripped the Christmas Pig's soft arm. 'What?' whispered the pig. 'We could hide inside Lunchbox and go to the next town!' (Rowling, 2021, p. 79)

From the two quotes, Jack's intelligence can be seen when he faces two external obstacles. First, when Jack is being chased by Toby the Dog, he gets the idea of escaping by hiding under the Christmas tree. Second, when his identity is about to be revealed, Jack invites Christmas Pig to hide inside the Lunchbox so he can go from Disposable to the next town. Those actions indicate that Jack can get past external obstacles in his own way.

The Way Jack Encounters Internal (Psychological) Obstacles Being Tough and Patient

Jack had to suffer because of internal obstacles by bearing sadness and disappointment. Those obstacles arise because of family problems and losing his friends.

Jack didn't think it sounded nearly as much fun as having a dad around to play with, but he didn't say that. Jack was getting used to not saying things. (Rowling, 2021, p. 7)

He broke down. He tried not to make any noise, but he hadn't fooled the Christmas Pig, who put his trotters around Jack and pulled him close. (Rowling, 2021, p. 129)

The data above proves that Jack is a tough and patient boy when facing internal obstacles. Jack showed it when he was sad and disappointed about Mum and Dad's divorce.

However, Jack chose to pretend not to be sad, he did not want to tell anyone about his sadness. Then, Jack overcomes another internal obstacle where he feels disappointed because he failed to save the Broken Angel from the Loser. Jack tries to forget his sadness and disappointment by turning his attention to Christmas Pig as they hide behind Thistle. Jack can overcome disappointment as an internal obstacle for a moment after he falls asleep beside Christmas Pig.

Strong Determined

Another internal obstacle Jack faced was his anxiety and worry because he could not find Dur Pig in the Land of the Lost. Jack became restless and worried because of it. Jack worries that Dur Pig has been caught and handed over to the Loser.

He looked around to see whether DP was sitting in one of the shadowy corners, but he wasn't there.
(Rowling, 2021, p. 69)

In spite of being cold and shivery in his pyjamas, Jack felt his spirits rise. He could just imagine DP living in one of these little houses. (Rowling, 2021, p. 87)

Jack's anxieties and worries were overcome by showing strong determination. The two data above prove that Jack remains consistent in looking for Dur Pig no matter what risks he will face, even his determination to find his toys is getting stronger.

The Way Jack Encounters Villain

Being Optimistic

The biggest challenge that Jack must overcome in his journey to become a hero is the ultimate villain who is the Loser. Jack must defeat the Loser to save Christmas Pig and other things that the Loser arrested. At the peak of his adventure, Jack can defeat the Loser and destroy him. Jack beat him by showing optimistic action.

But Jack had just had an idea. He knew it might be too late, but it was the only thing he could think of that might work. 'Listen!' he shouted to all the Things in their cages, while he still clung to the Christmas Pig's trotter. 'I'm human and I care about you! You aren't garbage to me and I know how to get you out of here!' (Rowling, 2021, pp. 198-199)

In this quote, it can be seen that Jack remains optimistic to give confidence and trust to the other things that will always be needed and loved. Although Jack fears the Loser because it is scary and cruel, he still tries to convince the things there because what can destroy the Loser is those who will live and be recycled. As a result, Jack's optimistic attitude destroys the Loser's body since the broken things that make up the Loser's body are sucked up through the sparkling finding holes.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

Jack successfully passed all stages of the hero's journey based on Campbell's theory of hero's journey. However, not all stages experienced by Jack appear sequentially. In addition, Jack can also pass through obstacles during his journey with his own ways, which tend to use his wisdom rather than his power. As a result, Jack can complete his mission by

discovering the meaning of sacrifice, responsibility, and friendship, changing from childish to wiser and mature.

Even though they have become heroes for themselves and others, a hero cannot always work alone with his skills and abilities. On the other hand, a hero will need extra effort to complete their mission, even if they need the help of his allies and side-kick buddies, as experienced by Jack, the heroine character in *The Christmas Pig*.

The researcher suggests further researcher analyze *The Christmas Pig* by applying post-modernism, structuralism, or symbolism. Furthermore, for those interested in conducting literary criticism using the heroism topics, the researcher recommends using the same theory as Joseph Campbell or using different theories such as Christopher Vogler's hero's journey, Carl Jung's hero archetype, and situational archetype.

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