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

**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

**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.

**Common themes**

Good is more powerful than evil.

The universe is friendly. Nature is cooperative.

Love is more powerful than hate.

Mistrust of technology

Innocence is more powerful than experience.

Destiny

Redemption

**Common Motifs or Conventions**

Clairvoyant dreams or visions

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

Magical weapons

Heroic costumes that change the person wearing them

Animals with human traits