

## SYNTHESIS :MYTHS AND HEROES

### INTRODUCTION

We studied the notion of myths and heroes through the lives and achievements of three important people who can be regarded as heroes: Andrew Carnegie, Malala and Oprah Winphrey. So, all through the following lines, we will try to explain to what extent heroes can impact on people's lives. To do this, we will focus on a 19<sup>th</sup> great figure first, then on two other modern heroes, Oprah and Malala. However, before dealing with Andrew Carnegie, we will define the notion of heroes.

### DEVELOPMENT

Heroes can be fictitious like Captain America, Spiderman, Superman but we decided to speak about real heroes. A real hero is someone who did something which marked people's everyday life. His/her deeds may be performing some acts of bravery like rescuing someone from an almost inevitable death, inventing a device or medicine which can change the face of the planet or develop theories that can shape people's life or mindset. A myth or a legend embodies the main ideological aspects (aspirations, desires, fears, hopes) of a people and its environment. So, myths are part of the identity of a people, they help explain a people or civilization. In America for example, you have the myth of the American Dream or the frontier ( the barrier between civilization and savagery, wilderness). But we will speak more about the influence and the role of heroes in our society.

#### **Andrew Carnegie**

The poem by Dos Passos about Andrew Carnegie is laudatory. The poet speaks highly about Carnegie. He appears as the typical self-made man who achieved the American Dream. A Carnegie is portrayed as an ambitious, energetic, hard-working and ambitious young man. He did not refrain from doing any kind of job. He accepted menial jobs even if he did not get a good salary. He worked in the textile factory as a bobbingboy. He was employed in transportations and telecommunications. Yet, this gave him confidence, trust and above all, experience.

Andrew Carnegie is the typical self-made man who believed in the virtues of hard work and perseverance. As a result, he became the richest man in the world.

He was a generous man who created foundations and helped charities structures. He was also a non-violent person who promoted universal peace. One important point in his character is also his patriotism. He adopted America's values. In times of war, he supported American efforts.

AC is an interesting hero as he can be considered as a traditional US hero. A woman like Oprah Winphrey is a modern hero.

#### **Oprah Winphrey.**

She does have all the characteristics of a traditional and typical US hero She achieved her American Dream because as an Afro-American from the 1950's she was sort of handicapped socially because it was the time of segregation. However, despite the difficulties, she could succeed and became one of the most influential person not only in America but in the world.

She is generous. Thanks to her lobbying, Oprah could make adopt the National Child Protection Act.

#### **Malala**

Malala is another important figure. She became famous at a younger age than the other heroes. She also lived under very disastrous condition. Her life was endangered. She almost got killed but she never abandoned her belief and her cause for the emancipation of young girls through education. She followed a noble cause and for this reason the Taliban wanted to kill her. Because of that people all over the world acclaimed Malala's courage and determination all the more she was 16. She is very clever and open-minded for her age. That's another reason why people like her so much.

She is generous like the other heroes. She created a fund to pay for the education of 40 girls in Pakistan. One of Malala's contribution to human rights is that she became the voice of girls' rights. She started the girls' movement and gave it a resonance in the world.

What is interesting with myths and heroes is that it is part of people's culture. These real people shape people's mindset. People identify to Malala or Oprah. They support these people's causes as they are regarded as human and noble causes.

### **Conclusion**

Nowadays, people need real heroes. After considering these three heroes, we realize that they share the same values of perseverance and hard work which are worldwide.