

The Hero's Journey and The Rules

The Rules apply to various Worlds. Rules are generally tools for maintaining a World in a particular state - the nature of the "Hero's Destiny" and that the journey must be progressed (else no story) dictate that they must be broken until a New State of Perfection is regained when other Rules are established to maintain THAT state. Rule are tools that can be used in many ways - by not being aware of them the Hero et al are exposed as Fishes out of Water; Rules can be used as inhibitors to the journey etc.

It's a bit more complicated than the following but generally:

In the Original World, the Rules maintain the Original State of Perfection (OSoP). Here the Id is contained. In "The Shawshank Redemption" Andy Dufresne's wife committed adultery (broke the Rules), caused the OSoP to be lost and triggered the journey, resulting in a return to it at the end, on the beach when Red arrives. In "Little Miss Sunshine" all the characters are met in a State of Imperfection; the OSoP has been lost for each character when the Rules were broken (Frank's lover committed adultery; Grandpa started taking heroine etc). In Hollywood movies (often due to time limits), the Original World Rules are referred to or referenced, as is the case in these stories. It is after the Rules are broken and the SoP lost that a long sequence of events occurs that brings the Hero et al to the Ordinary World / State, where we first, usually, encounter them.

Then as the Hero et al proceed to other Worlds, Rules again come into play. Here the Rules are made explicit for the benefit of maintaining that World in that Present State / or for the need to break them and transcend that Present World and State / or as inhibitors etc. In "The Shawshank Redemption" Andy breaks the Rules on the rooftop where he advises Hadley how to save money on his taxes, which leads directly to acceptance and the battle and defeat of the Major Threshold Guardian (the rapist and his gang) causing Andy to be able to move into the deeper New World and deeper transformation. In "Little Miss Sunshine" the nurse forbids the family from taking Grandpa out of the hospital - again, the Rule is broken in order to proceed.

Hope that helps.

Best,

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