
Online Library Heroes Robert Cormier Character Analysis

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KEY=HEROES - CALEB GALLEGOS

HEROES

Delacorte Press Francis Joseph Cassavant is 18. He has just returned home from the Second World War, and he has no face. He does have a gun and a mission: to murder his childhood hero. Francis lost most of his face when he fell on a grenade in France. He received the Silver Star for bravery, but was it really an act of heroism? Now, having survived, he is looking for a man he once admired and respected, a man adored by many people, a man who also received a Silver Star for bravery. A man who destroyed Francis's life.

HEROES

Laurel Leaf Coming home from World War II with a Silver Star for bravery but no face, Francis Joseph Cassavant is determined to find the man who ruined his life and get his just revenge. Reader's Guide. Reprint.

HEROES

WE ALL FALL DOWN

Delacorte Press Buddy Walker is troubled by his parent's recent divorce, and when Harry Flowers suggests a prank, he goes along, just for opportunity to do something different. He doesn't realize that someone is watching. When Jane Jerome's house is trashed, and sister brutally injured in a home invasion, she struggles to continue with her life as her family falls apart. The Avenger has witnessed reckless evil. He has killed before and knows that he just needs to wait until the time is right before he can take his revenge. Robert Cormier once again sheds light on the conflict between good and evil and the dark side of human nature. In his classic style, each character's point of view is revealed invoking both sympathy and horror while showing the complexities of the psyche.

THE CHOCOLATE WAR

Ember A high-school freshman who refuses to participate in the annual fund-raising chocolate sale is forced to defend his convictions.

FRENCHTOWN SUMMER

Laurel Leaf Eugene is remembering the summer of 1938 in Frenchtown, a time when he began to wonder "what I was doing here on the planet Earth." Here in vibrant, exquisite detail are his lovely mother, his aunts and uncles, cousins and friends, and especially his beloved, enigmatic father. Here, too, is the world of a mill town: the boys swimming in a brook that is red or purple or green, depending on the dyes dumped that day by the comb shop; the visit of the ice man; and the boys' trips to the cemetery or the forbidden railroad tracks. And here also is a darker world—the mystery of a girl murdered years before. Robert Cormier's touching, funny, melancholy chronicle of a vanished world celebrates a son's connection to his father and human relationships that are timeless.

FADE

Delacorte Press IT IS THE summer of 1938 when young Paul Moreaux discovers he can "fade." First bewildered, then thrilled with the power of invisibility, Paul experiments. But his "gift" soon shows him

shocking secrets and drives him toward a chilling act. “Imagine what might happen if Holden Caulfield stepped into H. G. Wells’ *The Invisible Man*, and you’ll have an idea how good *Fade* is. . . . I was absolutely riveted.”—Stephen King

TENDERNESS

Delacorte Press Eighteen-year-old Eric has just been released from juvenile detention for murdering his mother and stepfather. Now he’s looking for tenderness—tenderness he finds in caressing and killing beautiful girls. Fifteen-year-old Lori has run away from home again. Emotionally naïve but sexually precocious, she is also looking for tenderness—tenderness she finds in Eric. Will Lori and Eric be each other’s salvation or destruction? Told from their alternating points of view, this harrowing thriller speeds to its fateful conclusion with an irresistible force, and a final twist that will not be easily forgotten.

THE RAG AND BONE SHOP

Delacorte Press Twelve-year old Jason is accused of the brutal murder of a young girl. Is he innocent or guilty? The shocked town calls on an interrogator with a stellar reputation: he always gets a confession. The confrontation between Jason and his interrogator forms the chilling climax of this terrifying look at what can happen when the pursuit of justice becomes a personal crusade for victory at any cost.

AFTER THE FIRST DEATH

Knopf Books for Young Readers Sixteen-year-old Miro had instructions to kill the bus driver immediately. They would then take the busload of children to the bridge and begin the standoff. Artkin was Miro’s mentor; the mastermind behind this act of terrorism that would get the world’s attention. But Artkin had told Miro that the bus driver would be an old man. Sixteen-year old Kate sometimes substituted for her uncle and drove his bus when he was ill. She even got a special license to do so, and she’d always liked kids. She wondered what was going on when the van in front of her stopped, but when the man and the boy with guns forced their way onto the bus, she knew her worst nightmare was beginning.

TUNES FOR BEARS TO DANCE TO

Delacorte Press Money’s tight and Henry is lucky to have the job at Mr. Hairston’s grocery store. His parents are both lost in despair following the death of Henry’s older brother, and Henry is glad for the opportunity to feel like he’s helping. Saving to buy a marker for Eddie’s grave, Henry tries to ignore Mr. Hairston’s commentary about the customers. But Henry is shocked when he is told he’s being laid off. That is, unless he agrees to do one thing, one terrible thing.

MY MEN ARE MY HEROES

THE BRAD KASAL STORY

Naval Institute Press *My Men Are My Heroes* introduces its readers to a living standard of Marine Corps esprit de corps and military decorum. Sergeant Major Bradley Kasal, the pride of Iowa, is a small town boy who wanted to be a United States Marine even before a poster perfect Marine recruiter marched into his high school gym and offered him a challenge Kasal couldn’t resist. Two decades later Kasal stood stiffly at attention, one leg literally shot in half, while the Navy Cross was pinned to his chest. Kasal is currently the Sergeant Major of the Infantry School at Camp Pendleton, CA until he retires in May, 2012. After a brief visit to his childhood Kasal’s story quickly gathers steam, introducing the reader to his early Marine career; adventure filled years that earned him the name “Robo-Grunt” from men who don’t offer accolades easily. Kasal uses his experience climbing the ranks to illustrate how Marines grow, and how they are shaped by the uncompromising attitudes of the officers and non-coms charged with turning young Marines into tigers. Kasal’s adventures culminate in Iraq. By now he is 1st Sergeant Kasal, ramrodding Kilo Company, 3/1, a rifle company in 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, the mighty “Thunder Third” that would cover itself with glory in 2004. Two days into Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003 Kilo is ordered to hold open a critical road between two bridges that Saddam’s fierce Fedayeen Saddam were just as determined to take away. Kasal makes in his stand on that road, literally standing tall amidst fierce gunfire, demonstrating the kind of leadership Kilo Company needed to get the job done. Kilo’s fight was part of the first big test of Marine Corps combat capabilities in the second Iraqi War and the only major engagement the Marine Corps fought during the heady days of the “Drive Up” to Baghdad. When it was over the so-called “Ninjas” of the Fedayeen Saddam were smashed. A week later Kasal was in Baghdad, welcomed with open arms by the exuberant population. A year later 3/1 was back to Iraq, in Anbar Province, the epicenter of the brutal war now raging in the former tribal stronghold of Saddam and his henchmen. The smiling faces that had greeted 3/1 the year before were gone. Kasal is the 1st Sergeant of Weapons Company, 3/1, the armored fist of a light infantry battalion. After four months of ambushes, IEDs, and deadly skirmishes 3/1 is ordered into Fallujah, to take the ancient city back from Al Qaeda and the foreign fighters who had turned the ancient “City of Mosques” into a fortress. It is there, in November, 2004 that the “Thundering Third”

entered into Marine Corps legend and Kasal into the Pantheon of Heroes for his actions during the most savage battle the Marines fought in the Iraq War. At a non-descript house in a walled neighborhood in Fallujah Kasal, at the time accompanying a squad of Kilo's riflemen into a contested house, becomes involved in a close-quarter duel with fanatical Chechen fighters. The fight rages throughout the house, at times Marines and the foreign fighters were exchanging rifle fire and grenades at ranges of less than 10 feet. For almost two hours the squad is trapped inside the house. During the brawl Kasal is shot seven times, almost loses his leg when it is nearly severed from his body, and sustains 47 shrapnel wounds when he used his body to shield a wounded Marine laying next to him from an enemy grenade. In the skirmish, forever known as the "Hell House" fight, Kasal was awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest award for heroism.

BEYOND THE CHOCOLATE WAR

Knopf Books for Young Readers The school year is almost at an end, and the chocolate sale is ancient history. But no one at Trinity School can forget the Chocolate War. Devious Archie Costello, commander of the secret school organization called the Vigils, still has some torturous assignments to hand out before he graduates. In spite of this pleasure, Archie is troubled that his right-hand man, Obie, has started to move away from the Vigils. Luckily Archie knows his stooges will fix that. But Obie has some plans of his own.

EIGHT PLUS ONE: STORIES

Knopf Books for Young Readers Seventeen-year-old Mike visits his grandmother's bedside and learns a family secret. A divorced father discovers that only love, not bribes, can keep his daughter "his" on Thursdays. A young white boy finds that friendship—and betrayal—can cross racial boundaries. Robert Cormier is one of America's most acclaimed writers for young adults. Here are nine touching and intensely personal stories, that confirm that these accolades are deserved. Each story features a brief introduction that explains how the story came to be, or something about the writing. Perhaps not as dark as some of Cormier's novels, these tales still have his classically haunting themes, which will be savored by readers of all ages.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Delacorte Press Denny answered the phone. He was forbidden to ever answer the phone, but at 16, he figured his dad's rule was just stupid. And Denny is soon plunged into a terrifying ordeal of revenge and madness for a horrific incident that happened 25 years before.

I AM THE CHEESE

Knopf Books for Young Readers Before there was Lois Lowry's *The Giver* or M. T. Anderson's *Feed*, there was Robert Cormier's *I Am the Cheese*, a subversive classic that broke new ground for YA literature. A boy's search for his father becomes a desperate journey to unlock a secret past. But the past must not be remembered if the boy is to survive. As he searches for the truth that hovers at the edge of his mind, the boy—and readers—arrive at a shattering conclusion. "An absorbing, even brilliant job. The book is assembled in mosaic fashion: a tiny chip here, a chip there. . . . Everything is related to something else; everything builds and builds to a fearsome climax. . . . [Cormier] has the knack of making horror out of the ordinary, as the masters of suspense know how to do."—*The New York Times Book Review* "A horrifying tale of government corruption, espionage, and counter espionage told by an innocent young victim. . . . The buildup of suspense is terrific."—*School Library Journal*, starred review An ALA Notable Children's Book A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year A Horn Book Fanfare A Library of Congress Children's Book of the Year A Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award Nominee

THE BUMBLEBEE FLIES ANYWAY

Knopf Books for Young Readers They are all going to die. All of the patients at the Complex are terminal, with no hope of reprieve. But they've volunteered to come here, to this experimental clinic to allow themselves to be test subjects. Still, they're all going to die. All except Barney. Barney cannot remember much about his life before the Complex, but he knows that he's there as a control. To see how the drugs being tested will affect a nonterminal patient. And then they start testing a new drug on him . . . one that will affect his memory. And Barney starts to remember things he doesn't want to remember.

HOLES

Yearling #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • NEWBERY MEDAL WINNER • NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER Dig deep in this award-winning, modern classic that will remind readers that adventure is right around the corner--or just under your feet! Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnatses. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the boys build character by spending all day, every day digging holes exactly five feet wide and five feet deep. There is no lake at Camp Green Lake. But there are an awful lot of holes. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The

boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. But what could be buried under a dried-up lake? Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption. "A smart jigsaw puzzle of a novel." —New York Times *Includes a double bonus: an excerpt from *Small Steps*, the follow-up to *Holes*, as well as an excerpt from the New York Times bestseller *Fuzzy Mud*.

STONE COLD

Penguin UK A tense, exciting thriller combined with a perceptive and harrowing portrait of life on the streets as a serial killer preys on the young and vulnerable homeless. 17-year-old Link is distrustful of people until he pairs up with Deb, homeless like him. But what Deb doesn't tell him is that she's an ambitious young journalist on a self-imposed assignment to track down the killer and that she's prepared to use herself as bait ... Winner of the Carnegie Medal

BESIDE A BURNING SEA

Penguin From the author of *Beneath a Marble Sky* comes an inspiring new novel of a man and a woman from different worlds whose love is put to the ultimate test as they struggle to survive an extraordinary set of circumstances. View our feature on John Shors' *Beside a Burning Sea*. One moment, the World War II hospital ship *Benevolence* is patrolling the South Pacific on a mission of mercy—to save wounded American soldiers. The next, *Benevolence* is split in two by a torpedo, killing almost everyone on board. A small band of survivors, including an injured Japanese soldier and a young American nurse whom he saves from drowning, makes it to the deserted shore of a nearby island. Akira has suffered five years of bloodshed and horror fighting for the Japanese empire. Now, surrounded by enemies he is supposed to hate, he instead finds solace in their company—and rediscovers his love of poetry. While sharing the mystery and beauty of this passion with Annie, the captivating but tormented woman he rescued, Akira grapples with the pain of his past while helping Annie uncover the promise of her future. Meanwhile, the remaining castaways endure a world not of their making—a world as barbaric as it is beautiful, as hateful as it is loving. With the blend of epic storytelling and emotional intensity that distinguishes him as a unique talent, John Shors reveals a powerful story of redemption focusing on unlikely lovers, heroes and villains, and war-torn countries—all, in their own ways, fighting to survive.

OTHER BELLS FOR US TO RING

Turtleback When her father is transferred to an army camp in Massachusetts during the Second World War, Darcy feels isolated in her French-Canadian neighborhood until she meets the vivacious Kathleen Mary O'Hara and learns about Catholicism.

THE OUTSIDERS

Pearson UK The struggle of three brothers to stay together after their parent's death and their quest for identity among the conflicting values of their adolescent society.

WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?

A FULL-LENGTH PLAY

Dramatic Publishing A dramatised case study of a quadriplegic who requested the hospital authorities to withdraw his life support systems in order that he may die with dignity.

A WORLD OF HEROES

SELECTIONS FROM HOMER, HERODOTUS AND SOPHOCLES

Cambridge University Press *A World of Heroes* is a reader designed for students who have just completed an introductory course in ancient Greek and wish to read substantial passages of ancient authors in the original language. It introduces three of ancient Greece's most important authors, Homer, Herodotus and Sophocles, and includes such gripping and influential stories as the battle of Thermopylai (from Herodotus' *Histories*); the death of Hektor (the *Iliad*) and the fall of Oedipus. Notes accompanying each passage provide extensive help with vocabulary and translation, and each section contains a brief introduction to the author and his work. The first edition of the book proved very successful with students and instructors for more than three decades. This, the second edition, includes the same texts as the first but provides much more help with translating and understanding them in order better to meet the needs of modern students.

THE NEVER HERO

CHRONICLES OF JONATHAN TIBBS

*What if when you died, no one would ever know you were all that stood between man and the enemy? When Jonathan Tibbs awakes in a puddle of his own blood, there isn't a scratch on him to explain it. In the weeks to follow, he comes to find he's been drafted for a war with a violent otherworldly species. A war that only he can remember. Now, the man Jonathan imagined himself becoming is no longer the man who can endure his future. The first installment in this science fiction action adventure series, *The Never Hero* is a gritty and honest look at the psychological journey of a man forced to forge himself into a weapon. Abandoned with little guidance, and at the mercy of a bargain struck far outside his reach, Jonathan races to unlock the means to surmount the odds, and understand the mystery behind a conflict raging outside of time and memory. In the end, the real question is what Jonathan is willing to become to save a planet that will never see his sacrifice.*

SHADOW OF THE MINOTAUR

*Longman Publishing Group Phoenix is a death-defying hero of the Greek myths, battling the snake-haired Medusa and the invincible Minotaur...but only when he's not being bullied at the school that he hates. For Phoenix leads two lives - 'real life' and his adventures in side the virtual reality game *The Legendeer*.*

THE COUNTESS AND ME

Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited Jordan's apprehensions of his new neighbor, Countess von Loewen, don't stand in his way of becoming her friend, but when he spreads the word about a cursed skull, he may need to test their friendship for the sake of popularity.

HERO

Wizards of the Coast New York Times–bestselling series: The saga of one of fantasy's most beloved heroes reaches a sweeping, epic climax in this conclusion to the Homecoming trilogy. Something akin to "peace" has come to the Underdark. The demon hordes have receded, and now the matron mothers argue over the fate of Drizzt Do'Urden. Even so, it becomes clear to one matriarch after another that while the renegade drow may come and go Menzoberranzan, the City of Spiders will crawl forever on. And so Drizzt is free to return to his home on the surface once again. Scores are settled as lives are cut short, yet other lives move on. For the lone drow there is only a single final quest: a search for peace, for family, for home—for the future. Hero is the third book in the Homecoming trilogy and the thirty-third book in the Legend of Drizzt series.

MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

Blackstone Publishing The classic story of one family torn apart by the Revolutionary War. All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother. Sam is smart and brave, and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British, including Tim and Sam's father. With the war soon raging, Tim knows he will have to make a choice between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats, and between his brother and his father.

A LITTLE RAW ON MONDAY MORNINGS

Laurel Leaf Gracie Adams, a widowed mother of three, is horrified to discover that one evening's emotional consolation has led to an unexpected pregnancy.

YOUR MOVE

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt When ten-year-old James' gang initiation endangers his six-year-old brother Isaac, they find the courage to say, "Thanks, but no thanks."

OXFORD LITERATURE COMPANIONS: HEROES

Oxford University Press - Children Easy to use in the classroom or as a tool for revision, the Oxford Literature Companions provide student-friendly analysis of a range of popular set texts. Each book offers a lively, engaging approach to the text, covering context, language, characters and themes, with clear advice for assessment, examples of questions and annotated sample answers. This guide covers Heroes by Robert Cormier.

SOLDIER'S HEART

BEING THE STORY OF THE ENLISTMENT AND DUE SERVICE OF THE BOY CHARLEY GODDARD IN THE FIRST MINNESOTA VOLUNTERS :A NOVEL OF THE CIVIL WAR

Laurel Leaf *Eager to enlist, fifteen-year-old Charley has a change of heart after experiencing both the physical horrors and mental anguish of Civil War combat.*

FIEND

A NOVEL

Crown *There's more than one kind of monster. When Chase first sees the little girl in umbrella socks disemboweling the Rottweiler, he's not too concerned. As a longtime meth addict, he's no stranger to such horrifying, drug-fueled hallucinations. But as he and his fellow junkies soon discover, the little girl is no illusion. The end of the world really has arrived. And with Chase's life already shattered by addiction, the apocalypse might actually be an opportunity—a last chance to hit restart, win back the love of his life, and become the person he once dreamed of being. That is, if the darkness inside him doesn't destroy everything—again.*

NOW AND AT THE HOUR

Laurel Leaf *Fifty-eight years old, Alph LeBlanc's work routine, family relations, and life are disrupted by illness, as he must learn to face the possibility of his own death*

YOU HAVE SEVEN MESSAGES

Random House Digital, Inc. *Teenaged Luna, who lives on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her movie director father, tries to piece together the death of her mother with the seven unheard messages left on her forgotten cell phone.*

CONSPIRACY CULTURE

FROM KENNEDY TO THE X FILES

Routledge *Conspiracy theories are everywhere in post-war American culture. From postmodern novels to The X-Files and from gangsta rap to feminist polemic, there is a widespread suspicion that sinister forces are conspiring to take control of our national destiny, our minds, and even our bodies. Conspiracy explanations can no longer be dismissed as the paranoid delusions of far-right crackpots. Indeed, they have become a necessary response to a risky and increasingly globalized world, in which everything is connected but nothing adds up. Peter Knight provides an engaging and cogent analysis of the development of conspiracy culture, from 1960s' countercultural suspicions about the authorities to the 1990s, where a paranoid attitude is both routine and ironic. Conspiracy Culture analyses conspiracy narratives about familiar topics like the Kennedy assassination, alien abduction, body horror, AIDS, crack cocaine, the New World Order, as well as more unusual ones like the conspiracies of patriarchy and white supremacy. Conspiracy Culture shows how Americans have come to distrust not only the narratives of the authorities, but even the authority of narrative itself to explain What Is Really Going On. From the complexities of Thomas Pynchon's novels to the endless mysteries of The X-Files, Knight argues that contemporary conspiracy culture is marked by an infinite regress of suspicion. Trust no one, because we have met the enemy and it is us.*

HERO

Holiday House *Heroes are hard to find, especially for Sean, who, at fifteen years old, has never had it easy. He's estranged from his father and abused by his mother—Sean feels he has nowhere to turn. Suspended from school and with a mounting police record, he is one step away from serious trouble. Sentenced to community service for violating curfew, Sean is sent to Mr. Hassler's farm, where he's forced to confront his fears and take charge of his own life. When Sean is faced with a dangerous situation that tests his true character, he learns just what it means to be a hero. In an age where it seems that few truly worthy heroes exist, S. L. Rottman has written a compelling and realistic portrayal of the conflicts that drive a young man toward his destiny.*

STEVE JOBS: THE MAN WHO THOUGHT DIFFERENT

A BIOGRAPHY

Square Fish A riveting biography of the groundbreaking innovator who was a giant in the worlds of computing, music, filmmaking, design, smart phones, and more. A finalist for the YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award! "Your time is limited. . . have the courage to follow your heart and intuition." —Steve Jobs From the start, his path was never predictable. Steve Jobs was given up for adoption at birth, dropped out of college after one semester, and at the age of twenty, created Apple in his parents' garage with his friend Steve Wozniack. Then came the core and hallmark of his genius—his exacting moderation for perfection, his counterculture life approach, and his level of taste and style that pushed all boundaries. A devoted husband, father, and Buddhist, he battled cancer for over a decade, became the ultimate CEO, and made the world want every product he touched, from the Macintosh to the iPhone, from iTunes and the iPod to the Macbook. Critically acclaimed author Karen Blumenthal takes us to the core of this complicated and legendary man while simultaneously exploring the evolution of computers. Framed by Jobs' inspirational Stanford commencement speech and illustrated throughout with black and white photos, this is the story of the man who changed our world. Read more thrilling nonfiction by Karen Blumenthal: *Hillary Rodham Clinton: A Woman Living History* (A YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award Finalist) *Bootleg: Murder, Moonshine, and the Lawless Years of Prohibition* *Tommy: The Gun That Changed America* Praise for *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different: A Biography*: "This is a smart book about a smart subject by a smart writer." —Booklist, starred review "Students who know Steve Jobs only through Apple's iTunes, iPhones, and iPads will have their eyes opened by this accessible and well-written biography." —VOYA "An engaging and intimate portrait. Few biographies for young readers feel as relevant and current as this one does." —The Horn Book Magazine "A perceptive, well-wrought picture of an iconic figure." —Kirkus Reviews "Blumenthal crafts an insightful, balanced portrait." —Publishers Weekly

THE ARSONIST

Penguin Molly Mavity and Pepper Yusef are dealing with their own personal tragedies when they are tasked by an anonymous person with solving the decades-old murder of Ava Dryman, an East German teenager whose diary was published after her death.