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**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Modern day heroes compared to the ancient Greek heroes share many similarities. They are seen as extraordinary, "god-like", brave, noble, powerful, invincible; the list is endless. There is one defining factor that these heroes have in common, most of them have one fatal flaw. The Greek hero Achilles, is a demi-god who is dipped in the river Styx by his mother. His mother accidentally holds him by his heel and his heel becomes his weakness. Achilles is the strongest and most heroic soldier in the Trojan War. The modern-day hero Superman, shares many similarities with the mythic hero, Achilles.

Superman's home planet is Krypton and he came to Earth before his home planet, Krypton, was destroyed. Superman has a vast amount of powers, but his fatal flaw is Kryptonite. Kryptonite takes away all of Superman's powers and if he is exposed to it for too long, it can kill him. Both heroes endure life-changing journeys that give them their heroic qualities.

Joseph Campbell, an American mythologist, believes that for a character to be considered a hero, they must go through certain stages of "the hero's journey" (Campbell). They must be called to adventure, refuse the call, and have supernatural aid (Campbell). Modern-day authors still use this theory to base their hero stories off because Campbell's theory is based off the successful and well-known Greek mythology epic hero stories.

Superman and Achilles both get a call for an adventure and are both put in a situation where they can refuse it. Achilles' mother had a vision of him dying in war, and also Achilles had a feud with Agamemnon about refusing to go into battle. Achilles obtains supernatural aid from the goddess, Athena.

Athena's help is a turningpoint in the war and aides Achilles as he defeats Hector of Troy. When Campbell was composing his theory, he intended the stage of having supernatural aide for the Greek heroes, causing it not to imply as much to Superman.

Superman's aide is not as direct but can be implied as his invincible powers and his knowledge. These adventures that they go on play a key role in their hero status. Superman performs heroic actions when stopping Lex Luther and also when protecting civilians from the earthquakes. These events aid and support Superman's deserved title of hero.

Like Superman, Achilles goes through an episode where he fights Hector and defeats him, making him qualify as a hero. Both the heroes portray amazing strengths but the modern-day hero story has an underlying difference when compared to an ancient Greek hero myth. Superman is self-aware and knows his limits or weaknesses. Achilles did not.

He is brave and bold but his lack in awareness leads him to his death by a poisonous arrow to his one weak spot, his heel. Superman is sometimes claimed as the modern-day Achilles. With many similarities linking the two hero stories together, they also have a difference. Even though they both go through the stages of a "hero's journey", it comes down to which hero knows themselves better and their own limits.