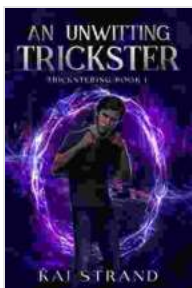


Trickstering: Unraveling the Enigmatic Power of Young Adult Modern Mythology

In the ever-evolving landscape of literature, the realm of young adult (YA) fiction has emerged as a vibrant and influential force. This genre, catering to an audience navigating the tumultuous and transformative years of adolescence, often delves into themes of identity, belonging, and the search for meaning in a complex world. Among the literary devices that have gained prominence in YA fiction is the concept of trickstering, a multifaceted and enigmatic element that shapes the narratives and characters within.

Trickster figures have long played an integral role in human storytelling, appearing in mythologies and folklore across cultures. These enigmatic characters defy easy categorization, embodying both creativity and chaos, wisdom and deception. Their actions often challenge social norms and expose the hypocrisies and vulnerabilities within society.



An Unwitting Trickster: A Young Adult Modern Mythology (Trickstering Book 1) by Kai Strand

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language	: English
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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 203 pages
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Trickster Archetype in Young Adult Mythology

In YA fiction, the trickster archetype takes on contemporary forms, reflecting the unique challenges and experiences of young adulthood. These trickster figures are not always the mischievous or cunning characters of traditional folklore. Instead, they embody a range of qualities, from the rebellious outsider to the introspective outcast.

One prominent aspect of the trickster archetype in YA fiction is its association with marginalized identities. Trickster figures often represent those who exist outside the mainstream, challenging societal norms and expectations. They may be outsiders, rebels, or individuals who defy gender, racial, or cultural boundaries.

Trickstering as a Tool for Transformation

Beyond their rebellious nature, trickster figures in YA fiction also serve as catalysts for change. Through their disruptive actions and unconventional perspectives, they force characters and readers alike to question the status quo and confront their own beliefs and values.

Trickstering can be a potent tool for personal transformation. By embracing the chaos and uncertainty that the trickster represents, young adult characters can break free from restrictive norms and forge their own paths. It can also empower them to challenge authority, question established systems, and advocate for their own identities and beliefs.

Contemporary Examples of Trickstering in YA Fiction

Numerous contemporary YA novels feature trickster figures who embody the complex and multifaceted nature of this archetype. Here are a few notable examples:

- **Percy Jackson in the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series by Rick Riordan:** Percy is a demigod, the son of a Greek god and a mortal. He possesses the ability to control water and is often portrayed as a trickster who uses his powers for good and to rebel against the gods.
- **Tris Prior in the Divergent series by Veronica Roth:** Tris is a young woman living in a dystopian society where individuals are separated into factions based on their personality traits. She is a Divergent, someone who does not fit into any one faction, and her unique perspective and abilities allow her to challenge the society's rigid system.
- **Kaz Brekker in the Six of Crows duology by Leigh Bardugo:** Kaz is a charismatic and cunning thief in a dangerous city. He is known for his manipulative schemes and his ability to outsmart his opponents. However, beneath his roguish exterior, Kaz is a complex character who struggles with his past and his desire for redemption.

Trickstering is a powerful and multifaceted element in young adult modern mythology. Through its embodiment in contemporary trickster figures, YA fiction explores the complexities of adolescence, challenges societal norms, and encourages personal transformation. Trickster figures represent the potential for chaos and disruption, but they also hold the power to empower individuals to question, rebel, and forge their own unique paths.

As YA literature continues to evolve, the presence of tricksters will undoubtedly remain a vibrant and thought-provoking aspect of the genre.



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