Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Joseph Campbell defines the **apotheosis** as the following:  **After trials such as resisting [Woman as Temptress](http://changingminds.org/disciplines/storytelling/plots/hero_journey/woman_temptress.htm) and the reconciliation of** [**Atonement with the Father**](http://changingminds.org/disciplines/storytelling/plots/hero_journey/atonement_father.htm)**, the hero transcends, achieving a higher place. This is a point of realization in which a greater understanding is achieved. Armed with this new knowledge and perception, the hero is resolved and ready for the more difficult part of the adventure. This transition may be symbolized with the change in appearance of the hero.**  At what point in each hero’s journey does he experience the apotheosis? Explain the circumstances surrounding each hero’s apotheosis and evaluate whose apotheosis is the most significant to the overall journey. Furthermore, please explain the greater understanding that is achieved by each hero. Use at least one direct quote from each work to justify your claims. | | | | |
| Beowulf | Achilles | Arthur | Gawain | Neo |
| *Beowulf experiences his apotheosis upon receiving his fatal wound from the dragon in “Beowulf’s Last Battle”. Up to this point, Beowulf has been bold and arrogant, telling his followers they are not strong enough to defeat the dragon. But as Beowulf lay dying, he realizes that no one is helping him until Wiglaf arrives to help kill the dragon. This is Beowulf’s apotheosis because he realizes that all of his exploits and bravery can finally be transferred to someone who can carry on Beowulf’s tradition: Wiglaf is to be named king and will presumably carry on Beowulf’s tradition.*  “Then that brave king gave the golden/Necklace from around his throat to Wiglaf/Gave him his gold-colored helmet, and his rings/And his mail shirt, and ordered him to use them well: ‘You’re the last of our far-flung family…’” (820-827). |  |  |  |  |