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# Heroes Robert Cormier Character Analysis

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## RICHARD ANGIE

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Beyond the Chocolate War Harper Collins  
 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  
The Brad Kasal Story Peachtree Pub Limited

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.  
Heroes Knopf Books for Young Readers  
 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.

*My Men are My Heroes* Ember

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.

**The Bumblebee Flies Anyway**

Random House Digital, Inc.

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 Brother Sam Is Dead* Walter de Gruyter

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.

**EIGHT PLUS ONE: STORIES** Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited

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.

*The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin*

Knopf Books for Young Readers

Presents the life and writing career of the American author whose works such as "I Am the Cheese," "Fade," and "We All Fall Down" revolutionized young adult fiction.

*Your Move* Delacorte Press

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.

*The Chocolate War* Routledge

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.

### *Hero Penguin*

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.

*A World of Heroes* Random House Digital, Inc.

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.

*Tenderness* Laurel Leaf

**#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER** • This is the true story behind the immortal photograph that has come to symbolize the courage and indomitable will of America. In this unforgettable chronicle of perhaps the most famous moment in American military history, James Bradley has captured the glory, the triumph, the

heartbreak, and the legacy of the six men who raised the flag at Iwo Jima. Here is the true story behind the immortal photograph that has come to symbolize the courage and indomitable will of America. In February 1945, American Marines plunged into the surf at Iwo Jima—and into history. Through a hail of machine-gun and mortar fire that left the beaches strewn with comrades, they battled to the island's highest peak. And after climbing through a landscape of hell itself, they raised a flag. Now the son of one of the flagraisers has written a powerful account of six very different young men who came together in a moment that will live forever. To his family, John Bradley never spoke of the photograph or the war. But after his death at age seventy, his family

discovered closed boxes of letters and photos. In *Flags of Our Fathers*, James Bradley draws on those documents to retrace the lives of his father and the men of Easy Company. Following these men's paths to Iwo Jima, James Bradley has written a classic story of the heroic battle for the Pacific's most crucial island—an island riddled with Japanese tunnels and 22,000 fanatic defenders who would fight to the last man. But perhaps the most interesting part of the story is what happened after the victory. The men in the photo—three were killed during the battle—were proclaimed heroes and flown home, to become reluctant symbols. For two of them, the adulation was shattering. Only James Bradley's father truly survived, displaying no copy of the famous

photograph in his home, telling his son only: “The real heroes of Iwo Jima were the guys who didn't come back. ” Few books ever have captured the complexity and furor of war and its aftermath as well as *Flags of Our Fathers*. A penetrating, epic look at a generation at war, this is history told with keen insight, enormous honesty, and the passion of a son paying homage to his father. It is the story of the difference between truth and myth, the meaning of being a hero, and the essence of the human experience of war.

**The Never Hero** Delacorte Press

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.

Frenchtown Summer Heroes

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.

*Conspiracy Culture* Cambridge University Press

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

**The Chocolate War** Penguin UK

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.

**Hero** Yearling

This accessible autobiography is the true story of one girl's determination to hold her family together during one of the most terrifying eras of the twentieth century. It's 1966, and twelve-year-old Ji-li Jiang has everything a girl could want: brains, friends, and a bright future in Communist China. But it's also the year that China's leader, Mao Ze-dong, launches the Cultural Revolution—and Ji-li's world begins to fall apart. Over the next few years, people who were once

her friends and neighbors turn on her and her family, forcing them to live in constant terror of arrest. When Ji-li's father is finally imprisoned, she faces the most difficult dilemma of her life. A personal and painful memoir—a page-turner as well as excellent material for social studies curricula—*Red Scarf Girl* also includes a thorough glossary and pronunciation guide. Supports the Common Core State Standards  
*The Never Paradox* Delacorte Press  
 After years of abuse from his mother and neglect from his father, ninth-grader

Sean Parker is headed for trouble until he is sent to do community service at a farm owned by an old man who teaches Sean that he can take control of his own life.

Oxford Literature Companions: Heroes  
 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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.