

5. Anti-hero analysis

During his heroic journey, Edward Kenway has encountered many dangers and undergone several tasks, which questioned his goal and moral values. These tasks changed his goal in the story, but his habits and moral values still reside within the main character.

Norman (2003) stated that there are four concepts of heroic figure in a narrative text. One of these concepts is called 'romantic hero' which later develops into today's concept of anti-hero. The romantic hero contains several qualities such as ignoring existence of class, inner struggles, valuing brains over brawns, uncontrolled passion, making his own rules, depressed, solitary, introspective, and loyal to a certain goal and to a certain group of people with the same mindset.

Many of the above traits are possessed by Edward Kenway. First, as an anti-hero, Edward Kenway was born from a lower class farming family. Second, he showed inner struggles within himself at the beginning of his journey; he had bad thoughts about people around him, who make fun of him because he was a trouble maker and could not provide anything for his wife. Third he valued brains over brawn; in most cases he tended to scheme a plan with trickery and tactics before using frontal assault. Fourth, his uncontrolled passion when he came with anything that brought him profit; this bad habits of his tended to give him trouble. Fifth, he set his own rules; his position as a pirate captain gave him an authority to set his own rules. Sixth, he was depressed; there were many things in this story that makes the protagonist depressed such as being disregarded by his father and his mother, betrayed by his friends, his friends and faced his wife's death. However, this depression gave him motivation to move forward. Seventh, he was solitary; his position as a pirate and a member of the Assassin organization made him isolated. However, he was still able to make friends with people with the same profession and interest, despite in a limited scope. Eighth, he was introspective; his occupation as an assassin and a pirate captain required him to be introspective since he needed to be careful anytime and anywhere. And finally he was loyal to a certain goal and to a certain group of people with the same mindset; Edward Kenway proved to value loyalty and friendship, especially to those who shared the same interests and goals as his, but if betrayed he would not hesitate to kill the traitor.

Another reason of why he is labeled as an anti-hero is the organization he worked with. The Assassin organization he joined in permits their members to do anything to complete their tasks in order to defend justice from the shadows. This permission includes sabotage and murder. With this policy, it allows Edward Kenway to sabotage and murder his target without hesitation; not to mention that the Assassin organization also puts a bounty on their target which makes the protagonist more motivated to do his job as an assassin.

Another fact about Edward Kenway as an anti-hero relates to his bad habits and his questionable moral values, which are very hard to change. Even though his goal changes, his bad habits still reside within. Some of these bad habits become a motivation for him to complete the mission and task of a hero's journey; for example, his cunning mind helps him to complete his mission given by the Assassin organization and his opportunistic, yet greedy mind keeps him going to find the fabled Observatory.