

ABSTRACT

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Manga is becoming a widely-accepted trend across the globe. In form, a manga is similar to Western comic books, but with a different style and structure of the story's presentation. One of the key elements of a manga's story, the characters, has caught the interest of the researcher. Kaneki Ken is the protagonist of the *Tokyo Ghoul* series that possesses this interesting journey to look into. He goes through a journey that changes his characterization in a certain point in the story. To analyze both this journey and characterization, two theories are used: Vogler's (1996) hero's journey theory and Sicoe's (2013) character arc theory. The hero's journey theory is used to gain an understanding of the events Kaneki goes through in his story, while the character arc theory is used to determine the kind of change he experiences. The result shows that Kaneki's journey is a tragic hero's journey, different from the traditional hero's journey, and that he experiences the fall arc, which is, essentially, a tragedy. Furthermore, analysis of Kaneki's unorthodox hero's journey, along with the discussion of the amount of fandom he has, leads to the discovery of how an idolized character can start a serialization of literary works, and how a serial literary work, especially a manga, tends to be devious towards the hero's journey theory.

Keywords: *Kaneki Ken, hero's journey, character arc*