



WHIRLIGIG
PAUL FLEISCHMAN

Heroic Journey

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THE CALL TO ADVENTURE- THE WHIRLIGIG

- Brent, a high school student who wants to fit in and believes in being popular.
 - He goes to a party that he was only invited to because a person needed a ride and things get out of hand. He gets bullied and gets shut down by his crush and humiliated in front of everyone at the party.
 - Brent leaves the party attempting to kill himself, but he wakes up to find that he had killed an 18-year-old girl, Lea. Brent must pay retribution for her death.
 - Brent must do something for Mrs. Zamora, the mother of Lea. “How strange, he thought, that he’d somehow caused this woman, whom he’d never met, to cry.” Page 38
 - Brent must go across the U.S.A and make a whirligig for each of the four corners. Washington, California, Florida, and Maine. He accepted the task and began to start his journey.
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THE CALL TO ADVENTURE- THE LEGO MOVIE

- Emmet, a construction worker that follows his manual on a day-to-day basis. The manual tells people how to live their life and keep in line.
 - After a day of construction at his work, Emmet sees a woman and investigates what she is doing, he then falls in a hole and finds the “piece of resistance” then faints.
 - Emmet wakes up and finds himself locked in a chair, with the piece of resistance attached to his back.
 - Emmet is confronted by Lord Business’s lieutenant, Good cop/Bad cop.
 - As they are about to laser off the piece of resistance, the same woman he saw earlier saves Emmet and introduces herself as Wyldstyle.
 - She tells Emmet that he is the special one, who can help defeat Lord Business. Lord business wants to freeze everyone with the Kragle, a tube of crazy glue, so that he has the power over everyone. So, everything is perfect, and no one can change anything about the Lego world. Emmet must help save the world and he accepts the task.
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ALLIES

WHIRLIGIG

- Mrs. Zamora, Lea's mom, gave Brent the bus pass and set him on his journey.
- The cyclist - by playing Go, it helped Brent think about constructing his new life, not starting over but build on it. He helps Brent move forward on his journey and gives him a push to continue. Much that he'd taken for granted before now struck him as curious.
- Emil - gives Brent the book Two Years Before The Mast, which motivates Brent to not give up. He helps Brent find new hobbies as in playing the harmonica.
- The artist - tells Brent that he should forgive himself and helped him see that Lea will be remembered because of him.

THE LEGO MOVIE

- Vitruvius - made up a prophecy so that Emmet would realize that what makes a person special is self-belief
 - Wyldstyle - tells Emmet he is the special one, motivating him to go on his journey, he listens because he likes and trusts her.
 - Metal Beard - helped defeat Lord Business and gives Emmet motivation
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ALLIES

Whirligig



The Lego Movie



A ROAD OF TRIALS- WHIRLIGIG

- Brent's first whirligig was in Washington, where he met the cyclist that let him stay on his campground with him. The cyclist gave him shelter.
 - Brent's second whirligig was built in California, where he stayed in a hostel with kids near his age. The clerk let him in even though he was not a foreign traveler. "He was a foreigner here". (p.49)
 - Brent went to Florida, where he stayed at a hotel and tried to entertain children while making his whirligig. "He felt like an escaped criminal who'd come face to face with his own "Wanted" poster." Page 87. Brent had come face to face with his past, a life from which he was hiding from, a life that was meant to stay hidden and contained during the journey. He was running away from his past life just as a criminal who would run from their crime.
 - Brent's final whirligig was made in Maine, without the handbook as he lost it on the bus. He still managed to build the best one whirligig while finding material on the beach.
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A ROAD OF TRIALS - THE LEGO MOVIE

- Emmet must gather lego people and superheroes to help him beat Lord Business.
 - When he meets them, most of them get kidnapped, and they are left with a handful of people. Emmet must put his mind and thinking into action to save them and to beat Lord Business.
 - Emmet comes up with an idea to sneak into the base, but him and his team get captured.
 - Lord Business plans to kill them all, but Emmet sacrifices himself and saves all the heroes. He then finds himself in a human world where he gets the attention of a boy named Finn, who helped Emmet get back to his world.
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ACHIEVING THE GOAL- THE WHIRLIGIG

- When Brent finishes his final Whirligig, he tells the painter about his experience, because he feels that telling the truth is better than lying. Also, he needed to tell someone the real story of what happened to Lea. The painter helps him see that talking about what happened to Lea would be easier than talking about it with someone he knew, or someone he has a relationship with. "He remembered the party and that he'd tried to kill himself". Page 34
- Afterward, he goes to a contra dance, where he feels he can finally fit in and be himself. He feels that he should continue his journey maybe make more Whirligigs.





ACHIEVING THE GOAL- THE LEGO MOVIE

- Back in his world, Wyldstyle had gathered the rest of the heroes to help beat Lord Business. Emmet has gained the ability and knowledge to be a master builder, then goes to Lord Business and confronts him.
- Emmet persuades Lord Business to stop using the Kragle on his own rather than trying to defeat him. "You don't have to be the bad guy." - Emmet

A NEW NORMAL

Whirligig

- After Brent finishes making all his four Whirligigs, he decides to make it a lifelong goal to make one in every state in the U.S. and believes that he should act like himself. Be who he really is and not as another person just to look good.
- Brent experienced pain and made himself a better future that he thought he would never have. He balanced his life by having pain that turned into happiness, it helped him work harder and find what he likes - to dance, make whirligigs and read.

The Lego Movie

- After Emmet convinces Lord Business to not use the Kragle, they went around the Lego world curing everyone from the Kragle, and everyone can do what they want. No one must follow the manual anymore.
 - Emmet sees that he shouldn't follow the manual to be perfect, he is who he is, and he should be himself.
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