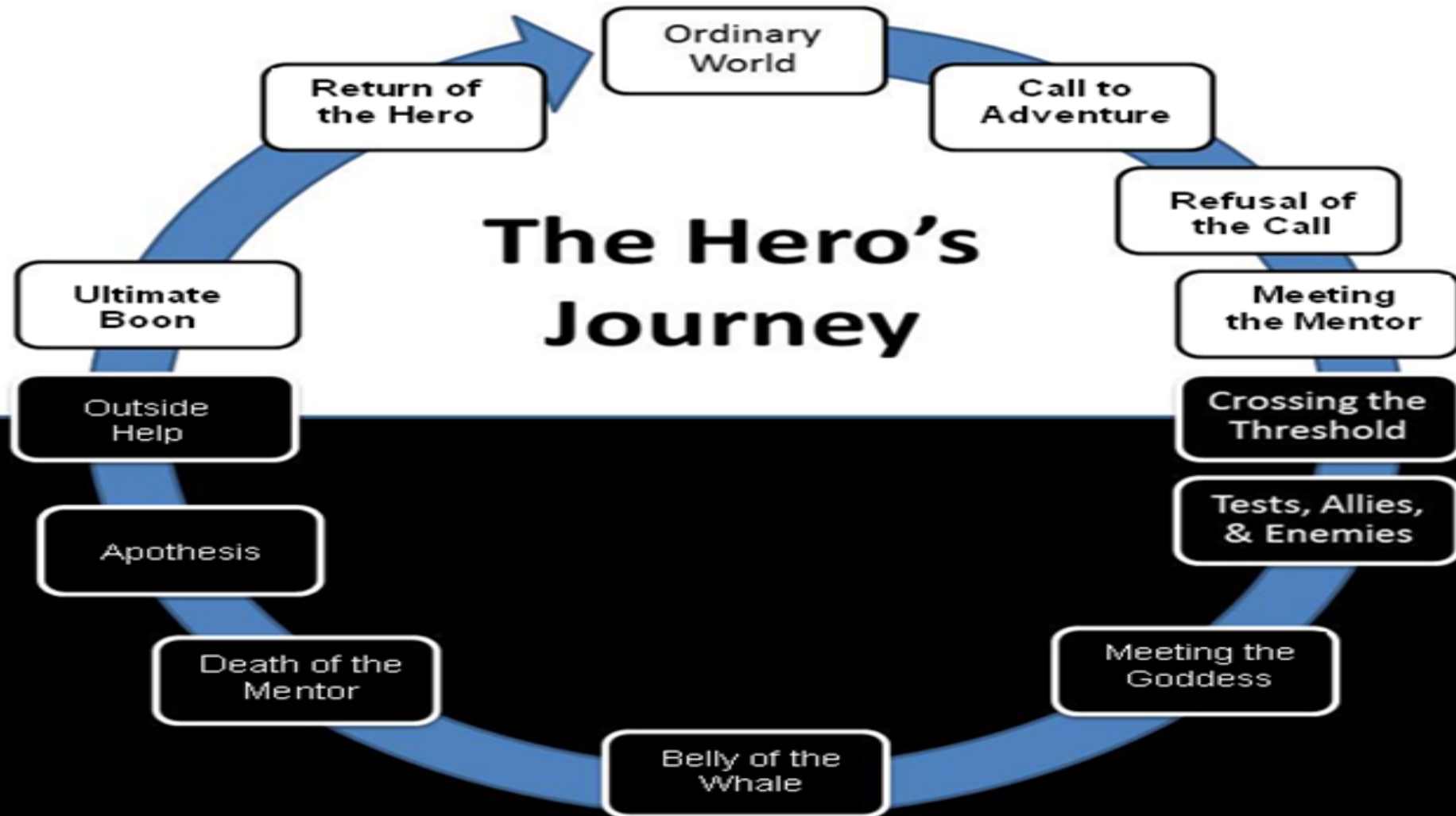


# New Orleans Under Water:

THE HERO'S JOURNEY OF LILY LEFLEUR



# The Stages of the Hero's Journey



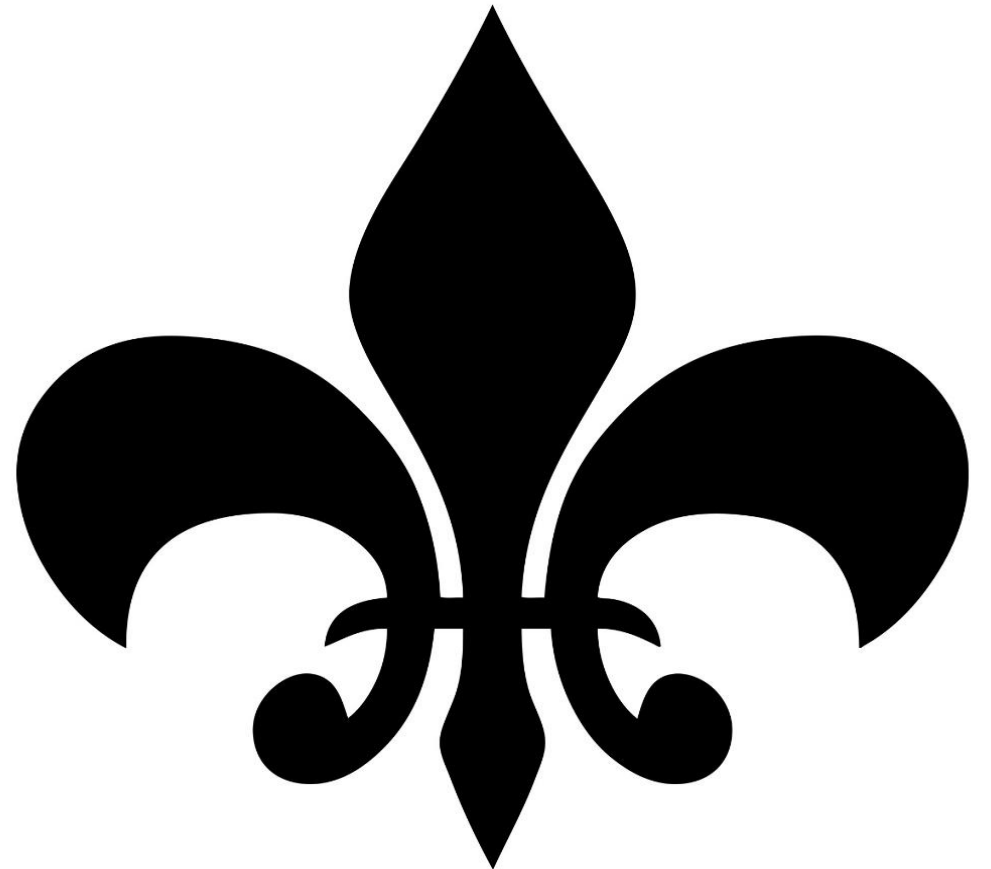
# Call to Adventure (An Invitation to the Journey)

- ▶ Lily LeFleur has lived with her grandparents in the Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans since she was a child (orphan)
- ▶ The grandparents are warned to get out of the Lower Ninth Ward to escape the oncoming Hurricane Katrina
- ▶ They are survivors of Hurricane Betsy and decide to ride it out
- ▶ At 6:00 a.m. on August 29, their house begins to flood and they try to escape
- ▶ The grandparents sacrifice themselves to save their granddaughter and give her a mysterious box
- ▶ Lily escapes from the floodwaters by floating on this mysterious box---she is pulled from the water by a woman named Yeya
- ▶ **They get to dry land and she opens the contents of the box --- two rapiers, a black mask, a fleur-de-lis amulet --- Lily is confused**



# Refusal of the Call (Uncertainty about the Adventure)

- ▶ Yeya tells Lily that she is special and that she had been chosen by her ancestors to continue a tradition
- ▶ Yeya tells Lily that her great-great-great grandfather Louis had been an enslaved African who refused to be treated with indignity by the slave master
- ▶ The slave master used a French law the “code noir” (black code) to break him
- ▶ After he had broken him, he branded him with the *fleur de lis* as an example to any other slaves who would defy
- ▶ Near death, the community of enslaved Africans rallied around him and “resurrected” him with healing powers
- ▶ The emblem became endowed with special powers and was passed on from generation to generation – now it was her turn – she refuses thinking it is a fairy tale her grandparents told her at bedtime – **Lily dismisses Yeya and decides to go it alone**





# Meeting of the Mentor (Primary Guide of the Journey)

- ▶ Lily finds herself alone and in desperate need of basic supplies
- ▶ She tries to cross the I-10 bridge to get to downtown New Orleans, but is met with brute force by the police
- ▶ Lily along with many other evacuees are left stranded on the highway without food and water in the humid New Orleans climate
- ▶ Yeya finds her passed out and gives her water
- ▶ She asks Lily if she believed the stories her grandparents told her about Fleur de Lis
- ▶ **Yeya promises to teach about the power of the fleur-de-lis**
- ▶ **Lily begins to believe and wants to know more**



# Crossing the First Threshold (Going to Field of Adventure)

- ▶ Griot again presents her with the sacred fleur-de-lis robe and explains the true history of it
- ▶ She feels the call of it and embraces it
- ▶ After she puts on the fleur de lis robe, she realizes that she can overpower, outrun, and outjump the police who have been blocking her path
- ▶ She leads others to downtown New Orleans and gets them food and water Griot instructs her on how to manage her newfound power
- ▶ **They cross the I-10 Bridge and go into the city – two musicians – DuSable and Big Chief know the story about Fleur de Lis and joins them**





# Testing of the Allies (Facing of Challenges)

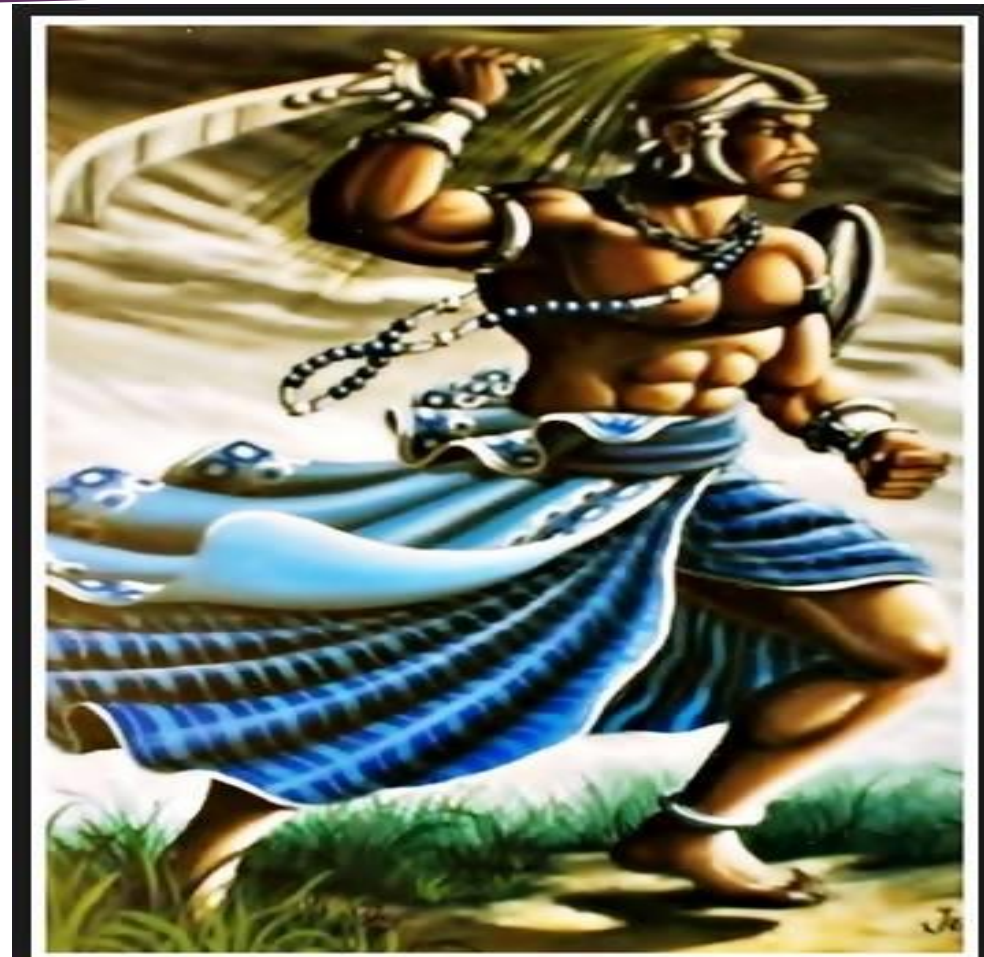
- ▶ Once they cross into the city, they are met with desperate people who not only want supplies, but to take theirs
- ▶ DuSable and Big Chief fight valiantly alongside Fleur de Lis and Griot as they make their way downtown to the Convention Center
- ▶ However, they are shot at by various authorities to keep others from getting downtown
- ▶ **The group secures a boat and begins to navigate the waters of the now flooded New Orleans**



# Meeting of the God

## (Meeting of Powerful Male Figure)

- ▶ After they get into the city, the group meets Gunny who counsels Fleur de Lis on which way to go
- ▶ He provides them with information about the city and is privy to conversations while working on the New Orleans Police force
- ▶ Gunny lends balance to the group
- ▶ Gunny tells Lily what happened to her parents
- ▶ **Lily doesn't trust Gunny initially, but realizes that he can possibly be an ally**





# The Belly of the Whale

## (Hero's Final Separation from the Real World & Self)

- ▶ The group arrives at the Superdome only to be herded into an “undesirable” section
- ▶ They witness the horrors of the makeshift camp and decide to break out
- ▶ Fleur de Lis and her companions must fight their way out of the football stadium
- ▶ Word of this hero gets to government authorities who were aware that another Fleur de Lis would arise out of this chaos
- ▶ **Delacroix, a government engineer is brought in to neutralize Fleur de Lis**
- ▶ **He holds the truth to the bombing of the levee that she is about to discover**



# Death of the Mentor (Hero Must Face Journey Alone)

- ▶ Yeya knows that Delacroix is on his way to New Orleans to kill Fleur de Lis
- ▶ They meet in the French Quarter where they had met 40 years before
- ▶ Delacroix was also responsible for the Hurricane Betsy debacle, but Yeya had defeated him then
- ▶ Yeya battles with Delacroix, but he kills her
- ▶ Delacroix dismisses Fleur de Lis as a novice
- ▶ **Fleur de Lis vows to avenge the death of her mentor**





# Apotheosis (Death and Rebirth)

- ▶ Fleur de Lis, DuSable, and Big Chief bury Yeya at sea
- ▶ They set her adrift on boat like a funeral pyre
- ▶ Fleur de Lis then embraces all the stories her grandparents and Yeya have taught her
- ▶ **She bands all of the evacuees together to fight those who are keeping them enslaved within New Orleans**
- ▶ **The crowd comes to her defense**





# Outside Help or Rescue

## (Guides or Assistants to Bring Hero/Heroine Back to Reality)

- ▶ Big Chief enlists the help of all the New Orleans's Indian tribes – the response is overwhelming
- ▶ DuSable enlists the help of the all the musicians in New Orleans
- ▶ One lone reporter assists them in their quest
- ▶ **Information slowly leaks out to the news of the struggle**



# The Ultimate Boon (Fulfillment of the Quest)

- ▶ Delacroix learns that Fleur de Lis is mounting an insurgency and vows to destroy the Fleur de Lis line once and for all
- ▶ Delacroix and Fleur de Lis battle in the French Quarter
- ▶ Fleur de Lis triumphs by recalling all of the advice from Yeya she has been given to defeat Delacroix
- ▶ Delacroix is dumped into the same levee that he destroyed to kill others
- ▶ **Fleur de Lis confronts local officials of the poor treatment of the people and outside help comes**

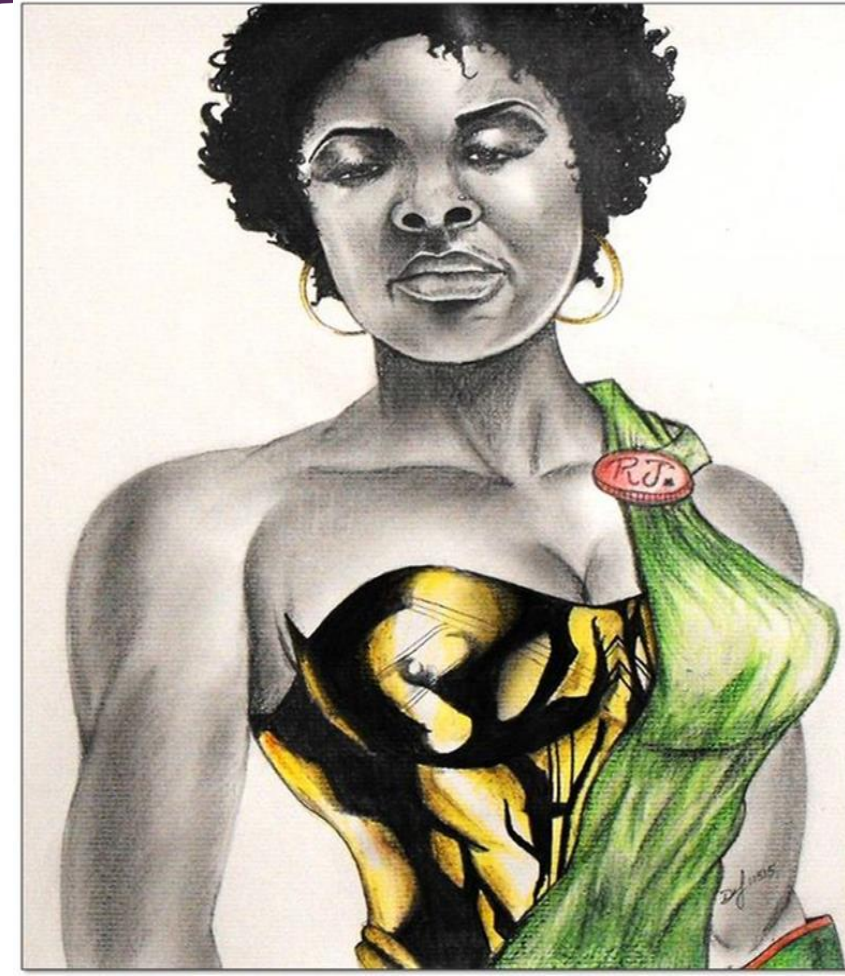




# The Return of the Hero

## ("Elixir" or Wisdom from the Journey)

- ▶ Lily returns to the Lower Ninth Ward and lays a wreath on the spot where her grandparents lived
- ▶ Her ragtag band wants to know what's next
- ▶ They are ready to follow her
- ▶ The whole community lauds her
- ▶ Once the government sends a party to find her, she is shielded by the Black Indian community and the musician community in a second line dance
- ▶ **She disappears into the crowd as the second line celebrates the death of Lily LeFleur but the birth of Fleur de Lis**





# LILY LEFLEUR— A NEW HERO FOR THE MILLENIUM

