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Lyra's journey in *The Golden Compass* includes the major elements of the heroic narrative. Arnold van Gennep, Lord Raglan, and Northrop Frye each divided the heroic journey into three parts, as we discussed in class, and I will use those to describe Lyra's journey.

Arnold van Gennep divided the hero quest into the three most basic steps – the separation, the initiation, and the return. Lyra's story does not follow this structure very closely. In the beginning of the story, she experiences a separation, when she leaves Jordan College with Mrs. Coulter, then again when she leaves Mrs. Coulter to continue north. Her initiation is her time with the gyptians, as she learns how to read the alethiometer, as well as getting more information about Mrs. Coulter, the "Gobblers," and what is happening to the captured children. During this time, she also achieves her greatest successes, freeing the children in Bolvangar and helping to restore Iorek Byrnison to the throne of Svalbard. Gennep's structure falls apart with the final stage, the return. Lyra doesn't experience a return, though other characters in the narrative do. However, this is the first story in a trilogy, so where the return could have taken place, when Lyra completes her quest of the book in finding Lord Asriel and delivering the alethiometer, instead the story leads into the second book.

Lord Raglan's heroic structure of childhood, career, and triumph or apotheosis fits Lyra's narrative more closely, but it is still not exactly right. The beginning of the story deals with Lyra's childhood, as an orphan having lessons and adventures in Jordan

College. Her time with Mrs. Coulter is a continuation of this part, when she spends the months as her assistant before she realizes Mrs. Coulter is part of the General Oblation Board. This realization begins the second part of her heroic quest as Raglan describes it, her career. During this time she has several adventures and triumphs. She joins the gyptians and assists them on their journey with the use of the alethiometer, gaining the assistant of the armored bear Iorek Byrnison for their attempt to save their children. She learns what the Gobblers have been doing to the children. She gets taken to Bolvangar and manages to free all the children and escape Mrs. Coulter again. She travels on to the North and is taken to Svalbard, where she tricks Iofur Raknison to his doom. She then finally reaches Lord Asriel, her self-defined goal of the journey, though it turns out not to be a triumph. Though she doesn't have her great triumph here, which as mentioned above is partly due to *The Golden Compass* being the first book of a trilogy, she does experience a pseudo-apotheosis as she ascends to the heavens, traveling into the city in the aurora.

The division of the heroic tale by Frye most closely resembles the narrative of *The Golden Compass*, both as divisions of Lyra's journey and as divisions of the book made by Phillip Pullman. The agon, which is made of perils and minor adventures, encompasses the beginning section of the book, "Oxford." In Oxford, most of her peril is self-made, quarrels with neighbor children and exploring roofs and tombs in Jordan College. Then the creeping threat of the Gobblers begins, and Lyra starts her adventures outside of the college where she has always lived. Pullman includes her time with Mrs. Coulter and the beginnings of her journey with the gyptians in this section. She also learns to read the alethiometer. The second section, the Pathos or crucial adventures, start

in part two, “Bolvangar,” which starts the gyptian’s real push to the north. In the beginning of this section, Lyra and the gyptians gain the aid of Iorek Byrnison, Lee Scoresby, and Serafina Pekkala. The gyptians find out more specifically where the children are and their campaign becomes more defined. Lyra suffers a lot. She learns what has been happening to the children that were stolen, and is almost separated from her daemon herself. She ends up triumphant, finding her lost friends and helping all of the children escape from the facility safely. The third section, “Svalbard,” fits together with the anagnorisis, a critical discovery where one comes into knowledge of exactly who they are. Lyra enters the final part of her journey, her personal quest to find her father Lord Asriel now that her initial adventure is done. Here she experiences two exaltations, a minor one and a major one. The first is her “betrayal” of Iorek by arranging him to fight King Iofur. She believes that she has designed her friend’s death. This does not end up being the case, as Iorek wins the battle and is restored as king. Instead, this is a red herring to the reader who has heard several times that Lyra will commit a terrible betrayal. The real anagnorisis is when she reaches her father in the north, finding that instead of saving her father from probable death, she has instead betrayed the friend she had just rescued. In the final scenes of the book, she realizes how deeply she betrayed her friend, and the true nature of her father as a man who would kill a child and companion of his daughter for an experiment. She realizes that he isn’t very different from the General Oblation Board and Mrs. Coulter, a point driven home when Mrs. Coulter arrives and they embrace. This anagnorisis is the end of the first book, motivating her further adventures in the series.