**The Worn Path**

**By Eudora Welty**

**PART I:**

1. **Define the word “phoenix” as it is used in mythology**.
2. **Explain why Phoenix is an appropriate name for this character**.
3. **Describe three obstacles that Phoenix overcomes as she travels the path to the doctor’s office**.
4. **How is Phoenix treated at the doctor’s office? Why is she treated this way**?
5. **How does Phoenix get the nickel? What does she do with it**?
6. **What time of year does the story take place? What is the significance of the story taking place then**?
7. **How does Phoenix respond to the questions asked by the attendant and the nurse**?
8. **What does their reaction tell you about their attitude towards her**?
9. **What emotion causes Phoenix to continue to make the trip**?
10. **Explain the significance of the title, The Worn Path**.
11. **What is the theme of the story**?

**PART II:**

1. **Each event in the journey is significant. Select one. Did you think it was important when you first read it? Explain it’s importance in the overall message of the story**.
2. **Write down two or three day-to-day actions that seem ordinary but that actually require heroism, resilience, and courage. (One example: a mother who is raising a family—do not use this one**.)
3. **PART III**

**The archetypal hero in short stories often follows a pattern.** They are:

**Call to Adventure:**  The reason the hero begins the journey. Often he/she will encounter **helpers** during the journey.

**Crossing the Threshold:** Occurs when the hero must leave the safety of the ordinary, every day, world, and enters the unknown filled with hazards (for example, a desert or jungle). A “shadow presence” guards the entrance to this area, and the hero can only enter it by defeating the shadow presence or confronting death in some way.

**The Test:** After crossing the threshold, the hero will encounter difficult experiences, ending with a “Supreme Test.”

**The Reward**: After passing the supreme test, the hero receives a reward of major importance. Examples include marriage, recognition by a deity (God), or getting a miraculous cure.

**The Return:** The hero leaves the dark world with the reward and returns to his/her own world.

1. **Complete the following comparison chart for A Worn Path. You can put your cursor in the box and type your answers. If you need more room, the box will get bigger.**

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| **The story Cinderella is a good example of these stages.** | **List the corresponding stages of the hero’s journey in *A Worn Path*.** |
| **Call to Adventure:**  Invitation to the Ball.    **Shadow Presences**: Stepmother and Stepsisters she must overcome to cross the threshold.    **Helpers:**  Fairy Godmother: Who transforms her.  Household animals who make a ball gown for her to wear.  Mice and pumpkin as horse and carriage. | Call to Adventure:      Shadow Presences:          **Helpers**: |
| **Crossing the Threshold:**  Leaving the safety of her home to go to the ball where she will see her wicked stepsisters. | **Crossing the Threshold**: |
| **The Test:**  Midnight…must leave the ball on time.  Losing the slipper.    **Supreme Test**:  Her foot must fit perfectly into the glass slipper. | The Test:        **Supreme Test**: |
| **The Reward:** Marriage to the Prince | **The Reward**: |
| **The Return:** Returns to the palace to live happily-ever-after. | **The Return**: |