

Examples of the Byronic Hero

Literature

Character	Book/Series	Author
Artemis Fowl II	<i>Artemis Fowl</i>	Eoin Colfer
Edward Cullen	<i>Twilight</i>	Stephenie Meyer
Erik/The Phantom	<i>The Phantom of the Opera</i>	Gaston Leroux
Grendel	<i>Beowulf</i>	Anonymous
Heathcliff	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Emily Brontë
Lestat	<i>Interview with a Vampire</i>	Anne Rice
Lucifer/Satan	<i>Paradise Lost</i>	John Milton
Mr. Rochester	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	Charlotte Brontë
Scarlett O'Hara	<i>Gone With the Wind</i>	Margaret Mitchell
Severus Snape	<i>Harry Potter series</i>	J. K. Rowling
Tyler Durden/Narrator	<i>Fight Club</i>	Chuck Palahniuk

Comics or Film

Character	Movie/Comic Book
Anakin Skywalker	<i>Star Wars series</i>
Angel	<i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i>
Batman	<i>Batman</i>
Captain Jack Sparrow	<i>Pirates of the Caribbean</i> trilogy
Eric Draven	<i>The Crow</i>
Michael Corleone	<i>The Godfather</i> trilogy
Q	<i>Star Trek</i>
Spiderman	<i>Spiderman</i>
V	<i>V is for Vendetta</i>
Wolverine	<i>X-Men</i>

Video Games/Film

Character	Movie/Comic Book
Lara Croft	<i>Tomb Raider</i>
Max Payne	<i>Max Payne</i>

Note: This list is in no way exhaustive of the Byronic heroes in fiction, drama, comics, movies, video games, and other texts. The examples listed are done so for the purpose of classroom discussion, and students may not agree with some that are listed due to their villainous characteristics overriding any possible positive or heroic characteristics (e.g., Anakin Skywalker). This is to be expected, since the Byronic hero is an idea that complicates the traditional understanding of hero and villain.