

What is a Greek Hero?

Greek heroes have some but not necessarily all the following characteristics:

They have won enduring fame (kleos). This is apparent during their lifetimes.

So in practical terms (from our perspective), because of this kleos, they are central characters in narratives that continue to be meaningful, significant, relevant, and interesting.

They have importance (or powers) after their deaths that have resulted in their being the focal point of a hero cult.

They have accomplished significant things.

They often have attracted the attention of the gods, either on their own behalf, or because of the ventures in which they are involved.

They possess, show or use significant, outstanding, inimitable attributes greater than those of other mortals.

They are extreme, in good or bad ways, in that their outstanding attributes can lead to their performing extremely good or bad actions, or causing extremely good or bad things to happen, or feeling extremely powerful emotions, or responding with extreme violence.