Archetype

Definition

- An *archetype* is the perfect, or typical, example of a certain person or thing.
    - It derives from the Greek word *archein*, which means original or old, and *typos*, which means pattern, model or type.
    - In literature, an archetype is a typical character, action, or situation that represents worldwide patterns of human nature. It can be a symbol, character, theme, or even a setting. Archetypes are presumed to shape the structure and function of a literary work.

Examples

An example of an archetype is the hero; a person who never gives up and proves his or her strength and greatness through courageous actions, but can be arrogant and always needing another battle to fight.

This character archetype is commonly found in Greek Mythology, such in the epic *Odysseus*. Odysseus is strong and defeats Troy, but his arrogance gets him in trouble with the gods. He continues to battle and fight his way to his true love. When he finally finds her he is not satisfied with living peacefully so he goes out and kills all of her suitors and their families.

Another example is the explorer archetype; a person who does not want to be controlled and hopes to find themselves by exploring the world. He or she seeks a fulfilling life and fear being trapped, even if it causes him or her to be a misfit.

In *A Doll's House*, Nora follows the explorer archetype, for she leaves her controlling family in order to find out who she is. She does not worry what will happen to her as long as she is free to find herself.

Link

Find more examples here:

http://www.soulcraft.co/essays/the_12_common_archetypes.html