



# Literary Significance of Number Archetypes

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DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.47134/bai.v1i2.3193>

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Received: 10-10-2024

Accepted: 21-07-2024

Published: 25-08-2024



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**Abstract:** This article explains the importance of number archetypes, putting emphasize on their roles as symbols that transcend simple numerical value to show deeper meanings and functions across various cultures and their literature. In this work, main number archetypes are also highlighted. For instance, three embodies unity in diversity, seven symbolizes spirituality and perfection, and twelve represents wholeness and order. These symbol archetypes not only contribute layers of meaning to literary works but also facilitate the expression of complex themes and universal truths. By connecting these archetypes to religious texts, myths, and cultural traditions, this article explores that numbers can enrich narratives and provide insight into human experiences. Finally, the discussion presents the examination of number archetypes in literature as a creative pathway to improve our understanding of reality and cultural way of storytelling.

**Keywords:** number archetypes, symbols, three, four, six, seven, twelve.

## Introduction

A fascinating look into the complex relationships that exist between numbers and the cosmos in various cultures and belief systems may be gained by investigating number archetypes as symbols with deeper meaning than their numerical value. Writers and readers can delve into a complex tapestry of symbolism as a result of the literary significance of these archetypes, which include the number three meaning unity in diversity, the number seven representing spirituality and perfection, and the number twelve representing wholeness and order. These archetypes are useful storytelling devices that can be incorporated into writing to convey intricate topics and universal truths, in addition to being potent symbols for comprehending the outside world. Number archetypes are prevalent in mythology, religious texts, and cultural traditions, and they provide a distinctive perspective for characters.

## Literature review

Numerous authors, including Joseph Campbell, Carl Jung, Dante Alighieri, James Joyce, T.S. Eliot, and Umberto Eco, have studied number archetypes in their works of literature. Renowned for his studies on mythology and the hero's journey, Joseph Campbell frequently talks about the symbolic meaning of numbers in stories and myths. Carl Jung's theories of archetypes involve the interpretation of numbers as literary and dream symbols.

Dante Alighieri changed the way people view numbers in literature by heavily utilizing the number three, which stands for the Holy Trinity, in his epic work *The Divine Comedy*. James Joyce makes use of numerology and symbolic applications of numbers, especially when it comes to themes of time and identity. Eliot uses a variety of numerical allusions in his poems, such as "The Waste Land," which have deeper implications about time, cycles, and experience. Known for his semiotic analysis, Umberto Eco investigates the ways in which numbers can function as symbols in literary texts, enabling more in-depth readings. These authors add to a deeper comprehension of the ways in which numbers serve as literary archetypes and provide readers a multitude of levels to delve into. Furthermore, the investigation of number archetypes and their role may be found in the publications "Numerology: The Power in Numbers" by Ruth Drayer, "The Mystery of Numbers" by Annemarie Schimmel, and "Harry Potter Numerology: One (Unity)" by Kris Swank.

## Methodology

This article introduces the idea of number archetypes, discusses their relevance in diverse cultures and belief systems, and explains how these archetypes transcend numbers to represent deeper meanings that have an impact on philosophical discourse and literature.

In this instance, it's critical to list a few notable number archetypes, like:

- The Number Three: Frequently used in literary contexts to emphasize themes of cooperation and harmony among disparate entities, it symbolizes unity in diversity.
- The Number Seven: Often utilized in literature to imply a sense of completion or heavenly connection, the number seven represents perfection and spirituality.
- The Number Twelve: Frequently occurring in a variety of mythological and religious contexts, this number can be used in storytelling to represent structure and balance. It symbolizes wholeness and order.

In terms of its literary significance, it is examined how these archetypes work as narrative devices in literature, examples of stories or characters that exemplify these number archetypes are examined to show how they deepen thematic complexity, and it is highlighted how writers can use these symbols in novel ways to convey difficult concepts, arouse reader emotions, and link readers to universal truths (Serenko, 2022).

Regarding cultural contexts, this section examines the existence of number archetypes in religious texts, myths, and cultural traditions. It also provides specific examples of how various cultures interpret and incorporate these numbers into their stories, as well as the effects of these interpretations on storytelling techniques, character development, and plot structure.

In addition, when it comes to its thematic investigation, it is imperative to examine the overarching themes that arise from the literary application of number archetypes, to concentrate on the ways in which these themes enhance our comprehension of the human condition and our relationship to the cosmos, and to investigate the emotional and

psychological resonance of these numbers within stories, thus encouraging a more profound interaction with the text.

Readers will have a deeper comprehension of the intricate relationships between numbers, literature, and overarching universal themes as a result of this investigation (Tomás, 2021).

## Result

In this case, it is essential to state that the repetition of certain numbers in the “Harry Potter” series plays a significant role in literature. This issue is often discussed in forums as well as critical essays in order to gain reasonable information about the appearance of different numbers in the series and how J.K. Rowling uses them as symbol archetypes throughout her work.

The examination of numbers and their symbolism, along with their impact on life, is known as “Numerology”. More specifically, as Drayer said, Numerology is “the study of a cosmic code that utilizes numbers as symbols... It provides insight into both our identities and the world around us. Wherever a number appears, it symbolizes a deeper truth”. Rowling employs conventional meanings of numbers and creates her own to integrate particular meanings and truths into her narratives. By understanding the significance Rowling attributes to various numbers, readers can gain a richer appreciation of her tales.

In this case, it is important to state a straightforward example of number one as a unity. In most Numerology systems, the number one symbolizes the primordial One, representing both beginnings and endings. It signifies the fundamental Unity of all things. According to Schimmel, this idea has been embraced by ancient Chinese philosophers, Neoplatonists, Cabala scholars, Christians, and numerous other groups throughout history.

Individuals for whom the Number One holds meaning are often leaders. According to Drayer’s opinion, “The keyword for number one is ‘courage’...” Its attributes include strong willpower, determination, originality, independence, leadership skills, a pioneering spirit, and unique individuality. Those associated with number one often do not actively seek leadership but possess the courage to take on that role. Conversely, they frequently disregard others’ opinions or harbor resentments.

Harry Potter, identified as “The Chosen One,” embodies this description perfectly. He does not set out to lead the fight against Lord Voldemort, yet his willpower, determination, independence, and bravery naturally position him as a leader. He also displays stubbornness and often ignores others’ advice. For example, despite Professor McGonagall’s warnings to manage his anger towards Dolores Umbridge, Harry refuses and faces the consequences. Additionally, he indeed has a chip on his shoulder, particularly regarding Professor Snape. Nonetheless, despite his imperfections, Harry succeeds in rallying those who oppose Voldemort. Whenever you encounter a Number One in Harry Potter, you should observe Harry’s leadership and unifying abilities being tested as he learns to embrace his role as the Chosen One.

Based on the archetype of number Three, it can be stated that Harry, Hermione, and Ron represent three strengths and their unity. They are always together and support each

other. Even when they face conflicts and disagreements, they ultimately come together and help each other in the struggle. This illustrates their solidarity and togetherness; they usually uplift one another and bring light to lonely and dark places. After Harry returns from the graveyard, Ron and Hermione are there to comfort him, which shows their unity and optimism.

When it comes to the archetype of number Four, it is important to inform that in the Tri-Wizard tournament, there are four champions. The number four represents completeness and wholeness. The four champions come from different schools (besides Harry and Cedric), indicating the union of these three schools and their significant competition with each other. Durmstrang is a cold, dark academy, while Beauxbatons is the opposite. Hogwarts provides a happy environment, so together, their four champions are balanced: one from a strict men's academy, one from a bright women's academy, and two from mixed backgrounds.

Furthermore, it is essential to state other definitions of some number archetypes. For instance, three – represents the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Ghost); also signifies Mind, Body, Spirit, and concepts of Birth, Life, Death. Four – symbolizes Mankind (four limbs), the four elements, and the four seasons. Six is connected with the evil. Seven – combines Divinity (3) and Mankind (4) and reflects the connection between humanity and God. It also includes the seven deadly sins, the seven days of the week, the seven days taken to create the world, seven stages of civilization, seven colors of the rainbow, and seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## Discussion

Around the world, number archetypes are important to many different civilizations and belief systems. These archetypes are symbols with more depth than just their numerical representation. It is believed that every number has distinct qualities and meanings that allude to various facets of the cosmos and existence.

The number three is among the most well-known number archetypes. Three is linked to ideas like harmony, balance, and completion in a wide variety of civilizations. This is demonstrated by the three doshas in Ayurveda and the Holy Trinity in Christianity. Three is frequently seen as a strong, holy number that stands for harmony among differences.

The number seven is another significant number archetype. This number is frequently linked to intuition, wisdom, and spirituality. Seven is seen as a sign of perfection and completion in many mystical and religious traditions. For example, there are seven days of the week, seven chakras in the body, and seven deadly sins.

The number twelve is yet another significant archetype in many cultures. This number is often associated with wholeness, structure, and order. There are twelve months in a year, twelve zodiac signs, and twelve disciples of Jesus. The number twelve is thought to represent a complete cycle of time or a full spectrum of possibilities.

Three – growth, development, the symbol of three unity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). Additionally, it symbolizes intellect, body, spirit, birth, life, death, light, spiritual consciousness, and unity. “However, in other places in the essay, Jung speaks of the trinity symbol as referring to three stages of a developmental process which is complete and

sufficient in itself, without the need for the addition of a fourth. For instance, he describes the three stages of father, son, and holy spirit as follows.”

The threefold rhythm of the developmental process deserves more attention. Let's examine how this triad represents a distinct and real existence within itself. In this case, the trinity archetype (triad) and the quaternity archetype (quartet archetype) refer to two different aspects of the psyche, each true, relevant, and complete in its domain. The quartet image expresses the totality of the psyche in its structural, static, and eternal sense, whereas the trinity image expresses the totality of psychological experience in its dynamic, developmental, temporal aspect. “The quaternity image expresses the totality of the psyche in its structural, static, and eternal sense, whereas the trinity image expresses the totality of psychological experience in its dynamic, developmental, temporal aspect.”

On the other hand, the trinity archetype signifies movement, such as growth, development, and the passage of time. Individuals embodying this archetype do not enclose themselves in static forms but rather in dynamic unions. Therefore, Baynes describes it as follows: “The triune archetype symbolizes the dynamic or vital aspect.”

The trinity archetype symbolizes individuation as a process, whereas the quaternity symbolizes its goal or completed state. Three – egoism, four – wholeness, a figure for the Self. However, since individuation is never fully complete, every temporary state of completion or wholeness must once again submit to the dialectic of the three, as emphasized by Edward Edinger in his work “Ego and Archetype.” “The trinity archetype seems to symbolize individuation as a process, while the quaternity symbolizes its goal or completed state.”

- Four – Humanity (four elements), four elements, four seasons, life cycles, the principle of femininity, symbols of earth and nature;
- Five – the symbol of integration.
- Six – the symbol of the devil, evil.
- Seven – divinity (3) + Humanity (4) = the relationship between man and God, the seven deadly sins, the seven days of the week, seven days for creation, the seven stages of civilization, the seven colors of the rainbow, the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the symbol of the union of three and four, the end of an era and the symbol of perfect order.

By concluding, we can claim that, number archetypes are mostly used as powerful symbols and they can help us better understand the world around us and our place in it. By exploring and studying the meanings of different numbers and their symbolism in literature, we can gain insights into the underlying patterns and structures which govern the universe. These archetypes can be found in various aspects of human life, from religion and mythology to art and literature, and they demonstrate the universal significance of numbers in forming our understanding of the world.



## Conclusion

To sum up, the investigation of number archetypes exposes the complex network of symbolic interpretations and importance that numbers have in various cultures and worldviews. Every number archetype provides a different lens through which to view the world, from the potent symbolism of the number three, which stands for harmony and balance, to the spiritual meanings of the number seven, which signifies completion and wisdom, and the structural significance of the number twelve, which stands for wholeness and order. We can learn more about the fundamental patterns and structures that control the universe as well as our own interconnectedness with it by exploring the meanings and symbolism of these numbers.

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