

Rocket – Trickster Hero or Villain?

While many tricksters in pop culture are the archetypal villains of their stories like Joker, Loki, or Gollum, one example of someone who narrowly walks the line between villain and hero while embodying the trickster archetype is Rocket from the extremely popular *Guardians of the Galaxy* series. While his first appearance in the film shows him getting arrested and going to prison, he is also shown using his cunning and deceit in helpful, positive ways.



In the first film, for example, Rocket and all of the Guardians get locked up in prison. Rather than allow himself to stay in that predicament, however, Rocket takes action and devises a plan to escape which involves



stealing from the prison guards and even taking a prosthetic leg from someone. Using these strategic deceptions, Rocket is able to scheme himself and his friends out of prison. Rocket's willingness to disregard the law and steal for his own benefit highlights his guile and deceptive nature, both of which are key characteristics of the trickster archetype.

Another example of this trickery is in the second film, where Rocket uses his tricks and schemes in order to defend himself and defeat criminals rather than to further his own agenda. Rocket is left alone at a campsite and is attacked by bloodthirsty criminals; however, he predicts the attack and sets up various traps like mines, darts, and other deadly devices in order to stop them. In doing so, he is almost able to repel the attack while creating a comedic scene where the unsuspecting villains are bamboozled and killed in various funny ways. The chaotic methods of Rocket align perfectly with those that are common in the trickster archetype.



Rocket is another phenomenal example of an extremely popular character that falls in line with the classic tropes of the trickster archetype. This category of character has always been extremely popular, and with the addition of beloved figures like Rocket in today's pop culture, it will seemingly remain that way.

