

“Out of time”—these are the perfect words to describe John Wayne’s character, Ethan. Just like the soul of an Indian trapped in limbo, he wandered alone all his life. He hates Indians with all his heart, and in his hate for them, he almost kills his niece, just because she now lives with the Indians. His actions don’t defend the weak, but only serve his own interests and feelings of hate. Ethan is a good example of an anti-hero.

Maybe the best way to define a hero is that he wouldn’t make a “good partner for killing.” A great hero only defends, avenges, and saves people, but never kills them in cold-hearted blood. Clint Eastwood’s character regrets all of his past action, and he is now a great father—this is mainly why he accepts the task of killing some bad guys. The viewers forgive his dark past, simply because he is now a better person. The character is certainly a hero, despite his dubious past.