The novel *Shane*, written by Jack Schaefer is a story of a solitary gunfighter Shane, the main protagonist, who continuously struggles to escape his past life. His actual inner self is expressed during his fight against the brutal inhumane antagonist, Luke Fletcher. Fletcher, being a large area rancher plans to drive out the ‘intruders’. Shane’s point of view is reflected by Joe Starret’s condition. Joe fights for the homesteader’s right of land. Set in a valley in 1880 Wyoming, this unforgettable western adventure revolves around the plot of both a physical and mental war and the helpful involvement of Shane on the homesteaders’ side. The climax at the point of battle at the bar is the ultimate turnover caused by Shane’s wise decisions of helping the loving family and their dangerous conflict against a cunning, greedy and deadly villain. There are at least six heroic qualities and three villainous qualities found in the characters from *Shane’s* saga.

Joe, the leader of the homesteaders, is a big and strong man but also the bravest man Bobby knows who takes pride in his work. For example, Marian cannot stop praising her physically endowed husband, “He picked him up like a bag of potatoes and threw him clear across the room” (Jack Schaeffer, 78). Joe comes to Shane’s aid when Fletcher’s cowhands sneak up from behind. He possesses great strength and uses his broad hand in successfully collapsing the man into splintered pieces. In addition, Bobby’s father decides to face the fierce duo alone, “Damn it, Shane. Don’t make it harder for me. You can’t do this” (102). Joe does not want Shane to take part in this final fight, he considers the situation and believes he would not fail entirely. His ability is not doubted by Shane and knows why Joe must do this and knows that he would not
back out. Furthermore, both Marian and Bobby are highly impressed as Joe has his best ‘resting’, “There’s something splendid in the battle they’re giving that old monster” (21). The team relentlessly works on finishing the long delayed chore of chopping down the ironwood stump in their backyard. Joe uses a big double axe as he believes that work that is started by hand should be finished by hand. Joe is the most able man to rightly lead the perennial war in Wyoming against the ruthless and canny formidable rancher.

Fletcher’s villainous deadly deeds include characteristics of cowardice and his greed forces him to be cruel to the weak. He offers Joe a boost in the ante to twelve hundred, but wants Joe to answer him directly, “…I’ll not take the answer now. I’ll give you till tonight to think it over. I’ll be waiting at Grafton’s to hear you talk sense” (96). Fletcher knows that Starret’s refusal would lead to a brawl finally resulting in a gunfight and hence decides the battle ground to be in town. He knows the advantage in fighting in his own domain and backs out from Joe’s farm realizing his weakness. In addition, the mighty silence in the valley disturbs everyone’s mind, “Don’t you worry, son. Fletcher if firing to do something, the grass that grows under his feet won’t feed any cow. I’d be easier in my mind if I knew what he’s up to” (82). Nobody knows the reason for Fletcher’s present whereabouts, but anticipate something unexpected. Fletcher does not come back alone; he has bought himself a paid assassin to handle his “business”. Furthermore, when Fletcher’s secret weapon is revealed, Shane foresees his next move, “Quick, Joe. Which one has the hottest head? Which one’s the easiest to prod into being a fool? Torrey is it? Or Wright?” (84). Fletcher is not unlike any other canny villain and follows a similar strategy of which Shane is well aware. Luke does not hesitate while killing, he in fact believes in proceeding slowly up to his main target. Luke Fletcher’s immoral state of mind strives for more wealth but his single minded self clouds his judgment and he considers murder to be the one and only solution.
Shane, the protagonist in this adventure, is not only a wise and honest mentor, but a man of integrity. For example, Shane realizes that he subtly needs to stop Joe from confronting the gunman, Stark Wilson; he dissuades Joe by saying, “Your debt is to the living” (90). Joe’s plan is to clean-up the slain Ernie Wright’s belongings and send the keepsakes to Wright’s relatives. But in doing so, the admirable man stands to expose himself to Stark, but ever vigilant Shane reminds him of his foremost obligation—family first. Additionally, Shane’s honesty is evident when he tells Bobby, “There is no going back from a killing” (113). Shane confesses that he has killed in his past. His truthful admission shows he is believable and serves as instruction to Bobby as to what not to do. Furthermore, Marian, a ‘mighty discerning woman’, knows that she is in love with and is unable decide between the two men but Shane assures her, “I said you won’t lose this place. You knew he was right because of the way he said it and because he said it” (66). Shane does not want to tear apart the family by letting Marian think he does it all for her. If Shane says it, it is something everyone trusts, it is the very fact that he says it what makes it a word that word that would never break. Shane’s high morality is completely doubtless and his is evidently the most perfect human being considering his unfortunate present situation and his will to help and protect his loved ones.

The extremely unique features of the entirely different western legends are portrayed in this epic saga. The entirety of Joe’s self contains unusually extraordinary mental and physical greatness. Fletcher’s abilities and his negatively affected clever mind sum him up to be a total death machine. The unexplainable extent of Shane’s remarkable deeds for the betterment of humanity mark him out to be a man with a pure soul. The past should not be dwelled upon; our present actions make up who we are and what we will be.