

Plot	Description	Plot Structure	Examples
Overcoming the Monster	A terrifying, all-threatening monster has been terrorising a community and must be confronted by the hero in a fight to the death.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipation stage (newspaper report etc.) • Dream stage (still a remote threat) • Frustration stage (enormity of task) • Nightmare stage (all seems doomed) • Miraculous escape (and death of the monster) 	<p>Greek Myths Frankenstein Dracula The Three Musketeers The Bond Stories Star Wars Jack and the Beanstalk</p>
Rags to Riches	The story of an ordinary insignificant person, usually overshadowed by a dark or dominant figure, who turns out to have special qualities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial wretchedness and the 'call to action' • Out into the world – initial success • The central crisis • Independence and final ordeal • Final union, completion and fulfilment 	<p>The Ugly Duckling My Fair Lady Cinderella David Copperfield Superman Jane Eyre</p>
The Quest	We learn that in a faraway land there is a goal worth any effort to achieve – a promised land, treasure, something of great value. From the moment the hero learns of this prize, the need to set out on a long hazardous journey takes over everything.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The call- hero receives a 'sign' • The journey – the hero (and companions) set out • Arrival and frustration – a new set of obstacles • The final ordeals – the hero has to prove his worth • The goal – won after 'a last thrilling escape from death' 	<p>Homer's Odyssey Treasure Island Pilgrim's Progress Lord of the Rings Watership Down Around the World in Eighty Days Raiders of the Lost Ark</p>
Voyage and Return	The hero or heroine (or central group of characters) travel out of their familiar everyday surroundings into a strange world completely cut off from the first. At first this new world is exhilarating but gradually a dark shadow intrudes and they are glad to return – usually by a 'thrilling escape' – home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipation stage – the 'fall' into the other world • Initial fascination or dream stage • Frustration stage – things turn nasty • Nightmare stage – hero's life is threatened • Thrilling escape and return 	<p>Back to the Future Alice in Wonderland The Wizard of Oz Lord of the Flies Gulliver's Travels The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</p>

Comedy	We have come to associate comedy with humour, but it isn't as simple as that. The essence of comedy is that it is like a jigsaw puzzle – when it is finished it seems obvious that there is only one way it could have ended up – and it has to have some redeeming truth which is brought out into the light.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We see a world where people have passed under a shadow of confusion, uncertainty and frustration • The confusion gets worse until the pressure of darkness is at its most acute • Things come to light and perceptions are dramatically changed • The shadows are dispelled and everything is restored to a state of joyful togetherness 	A Midsummer Night's Dream The Merchant of Venice Pride and Prejudice Sense and Sensibility The Marriage of Figero Some Like it Hot Four Weddings and a Funeral
Tragedy	Sooner or later, in any attempt to explore the deeper patterns which shape story-telling, we are brought up against one central, overwhelming fact. This is the way in which, through all the millions of stories thrown up by the human imagination, just two endings have far outweighed all others. Either it ends with a man and a woman united in love. Or it ends in a death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipation stage – the hero or heroine is unfulfilled • Dream stage – for a while things seem to go improbably well • Frustration stage – imperceptibly things start to go wrong • Nightmare stage – things are seriously slipping out of control. Mounting sense of threat and despair • Destruction and death – the hero is destroyed by forces he has aroused against him 	Romeo and Juliet Macbeth King Lear Bonnie and Clyde The Picture of Dorian Gray Lolita Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde The Story of Icarus
Rebirth	A hero or heroine falls under a dark spell, which traps them for a long time in a living death, physical or spiritual imprisonment, sleep, sickness or some other form of enchantment, before a miraculous act of redemption takes place and they are freed from the darkness and brought back into the light.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A young hero falls under the shadow of some dark power • For a while everything seems fine and the threat has receded • The threat returns stronger than before • This continues for some time until it seems that the dark threat has prevailed • Finally comes the miraculous liberation by a 'saviour' figure 	Sleeping Beauty Snow White Beauty and the Beast The Snow Queen A Christmas Carol Crime and Punishment The Secret Garden

