

Fiction – Narrative Archetypes

Archetype	Key Elements	Graphic Organiser	Existing Examples
Overcoming the Monster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monster to be eliminated Threat to the general peace Hero or heroine confronts the monster Destruction seems inevitable Universal peace is restored 	STORY MAP 	Hansel and Gretel Little Red Riding Hood Jack and the Beanstalk Beowulf Theseus and the Minotaur Who Let the Gods Out? The Selfish Giant The Wed Wabbit
Rags to Riches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hero or heroine introduced in childhood Live in the shadows of a 'dark' figure Transformation occurs Overcomes a crisis 	STORY BEATS 	Cinderella Puss in Boots Aladdin Oliver Twist Street Child Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Holes
The Quest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hero or heroine sets out on a mission with companions Near-fatal ordeals as they travel through difficult climates Arrival in sight but final ordeal to defeat Nearly misses goal but gets there with peace restored 	BOXING UP 	Watership Down Sky Song Brightstorm Cogheart An Island of Our Own Oliver and the Seawigs
Voyage and Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipation stage as hero or heroine taken out of their world Dream stage as the new world seems exciting Frustration stage as a dark force is introduced Nightmare stage as the dark force dominates the alternative world Thrilling escape back to reality 	STORY MOUNTAIN 	Alice in Wonderland The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Robinson Crusoe Goldilocks Peter Rabbit The Explorer The Hobbit The Time Machine
Comedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dark characters upset light characters Resolving the problem of two lovers Change of heart leads to resolution Dark character could become the hero or heroine also 		The Taming of the Shrew A Midsummer Night's Dream
Tragedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipation stage as hero/heroine sees a course of action Dream stage as hero/heroine becomes committed to the cause frustration stage as situation turns bad Nightmare stage as hero/heroine loses control Destruction stage as final act destroys the hero/heroin 	EMOTIONS MAP 	Romeo and Juliet Macbeth The Little Matchgirl The Snowman Tadpole's Promise
Rebirth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curse (main character given dark force to overcome) Protection (light characters protect against dark forces) Re-birth stage (main character changes for the better) 		A Christmas Carol Snow White Sleeping Beauty The Ugly Duckling The 1000-Year-Old Boy The Frog Princess Wonder The Last Wild

THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 1 – OVERCOMING THE MONSTER

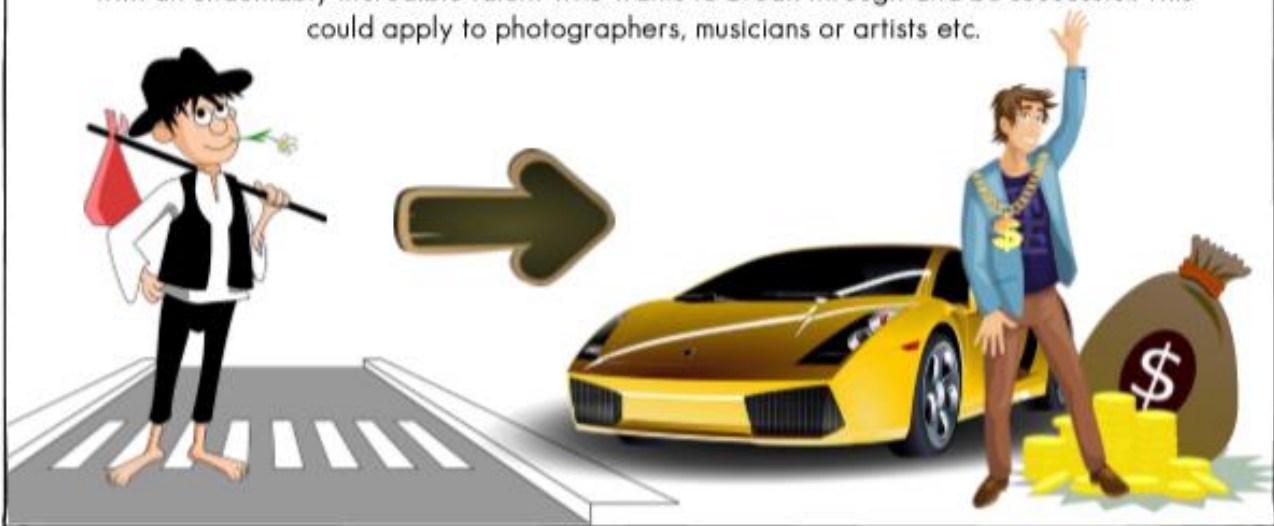
This is where the hero or heroine must destroy a monster to restore balance to the world. In the real world this could be overcoming an addiction, fighting off debt, beating an illness or anything else that requires something to be defeated for the hero to win.



THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 2 – RAGS TO RICHES

A modest and moral, but downtrodden, character achieves a happy ending when their natural talents are displayed to the world at large. In the real world this applies to anyone with an undeniably incredible talent who wants to break through and be successful. This could apply to photographers, musicians or artists etc.



THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 3 – THE QUEST

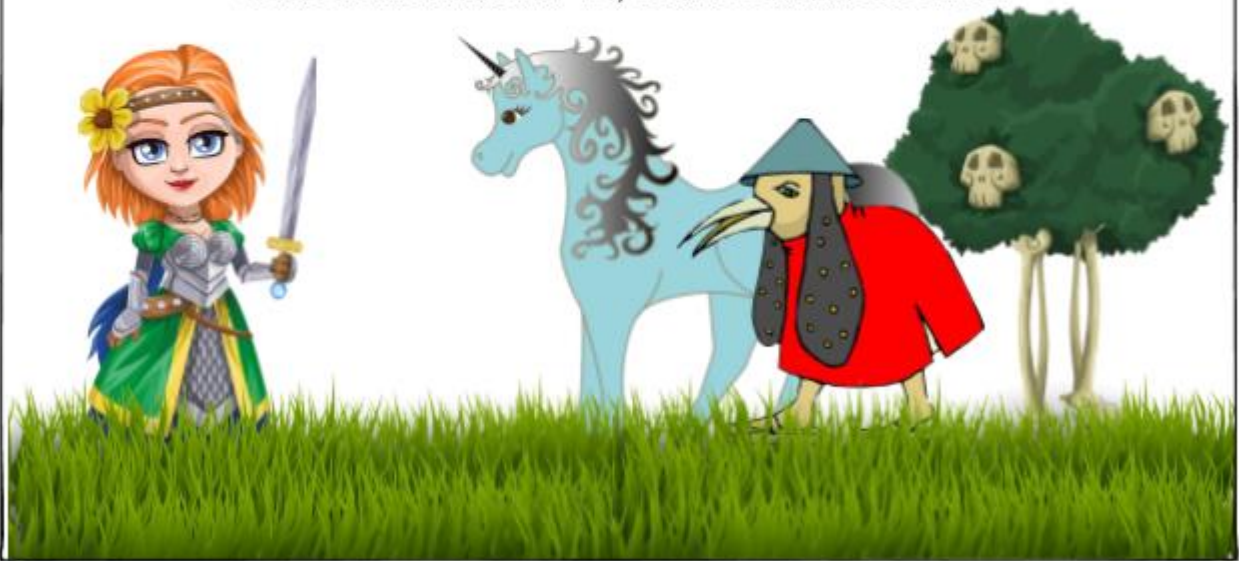
The hero or heroine, often accompanied by sidekicks, travel in search of a priceless treasure and must defeat evil and overcome powerful odds which ends when they succeed. Unlike "Rags to Riches" if the main character is in it for the long haul.



THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 4 – VOYAGE AND RETURN

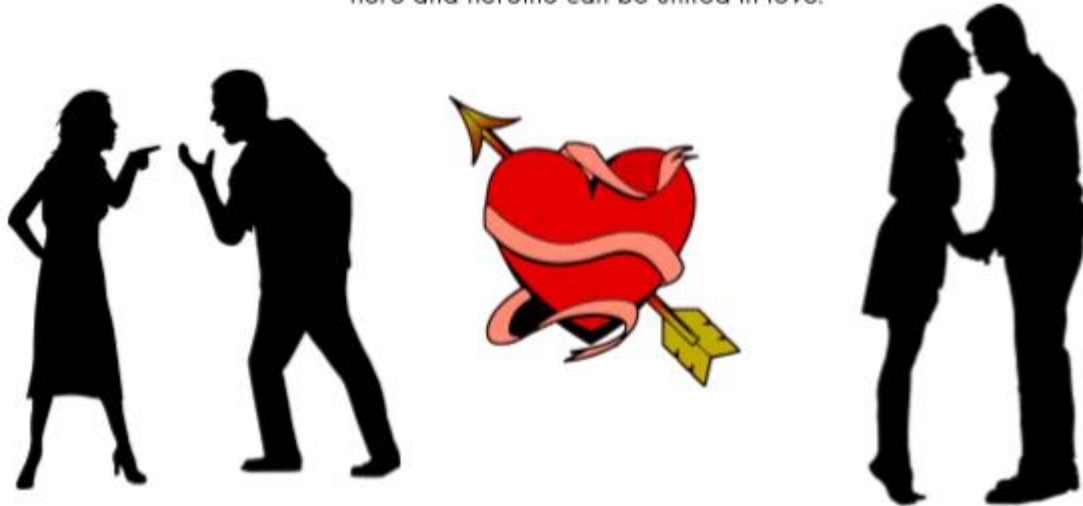
Stories like these are of normal protagonists who are suddenly thrust into strange and alien worlds and must make their way back to normal life once more.



THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 5 - COMEDY

The plot of a comedy involves some kind of confusion that must be resolved before the hero and heroine can be united in love.



THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 6 - TRAGEDY

From the Greeks through to Shakespeare, these are stories of the dark side of humanity and the futile nature of human experience. These can be depressing tales to make people think or care about a particular issue.



THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 7 - REBIRTH

This story almost always has a threatening shadow that seems nearly victorious until a sequence of events lead to redemption and rebirth, and the restoration of a happier world.

Often a character realises the error of their ways or becomes a better person.

