

# The Seven Basic Plots Outline

## Overcoming the Monster

### The Call

The hero is attuned to the fact that he is the “chosen one”. He must go and fight the greater evil.

### The Dream

Everything seems to be going well so the hero gains confidence in himself to continue on his journey to the monster.

### The Frustration

The monster taunts the hero with his power. The hero becomes intimidated with the possibility that the monster is more powerful than he.

### The Nightmare

This intimidation leads to a nightmare making the possibility of failure even more realistic in the mind of hero.

### The Escape and the Death of the Monster

In a climactic battle, the monster is overcome and killed by the hero and the hero arises in victory. From his victory the hero gains treasure, a kingdom and a princess. And they live happily ever after. The End.

## Rags to Riches

### The Crappy Home Life and the Call

The life at home is really bad, so either the hero leaves home or is sent away from home.

### The Success Out of the Home

The hero experiences success almost immediately after leaving home giving him the confidence to move forward with the journey.

## The Crisis

The hero is confronted with a problem of which the whole story is centered around. This crisis in the midst of happiness is overwhelming to the hero.

## Freedom and the Final Confrontation

The hero in an effort to overcome the crisis, becomes proves his independence and that he is worthy to receive what he wants.

## The Victory

The hero arises in victory. From his victory he gains treasure, a kingdom and a princess.

# The Quest

## The Call

The hero is called to action by his own will to achieve something great. He goes on his quest with direction; he knows where he is going.

## The Journey

The hero, on his journey, encounters obstacles. But his will to carry on and his desire to achieve his goal is what helps him press on.

## The Monster

Along the journey, one of the obstacles that the hero encounters is monsters. He must overcome them to continue or else he will succumb to a gruesome death.

## The Temptation

Another obstacle the hero must overcome is the temptation. The temptations lead the hero to change his desires, if he succumbs he has failed in his quest.

## The Largest Obstacle

The hero's path is becoming more narrow in order to achieve his goal and if he deviates at all he will fail.

## The Journey to the Underworld

The hero descends into the depths of despair in order to receive divine guidance from those that dwell in the underworld.

## The Arrival

The hero finally arrives at the destination necessary in order to achieve his goal, however, the story is far from over.

## The Frustration

After many attempts, the hero continuously fails to achieve his goal. And when He finally achieves his goal, there is yet another obstacle to overcome.

## The Victory

The hero arises in victory. From his victory he gains treasure, a kingdom and a princess.

# **Voyage and Return**

## The Voyage

The hero finds himself on a voyage. The story tends to start out in a different world and the destination is reality.

## The Dream

While experiencing this new world, the hero becomes fascinated and explores. However, the hero does not feel the other world is livable.

## The Frustration

The hero begins to discover that the alternate world is not as it seemed leaving him void of direction and enveloped in fear.

## The Nightmare

The fear that the hero experienced is now the central idea. The hero must escape and return to reality.

## The Escape and Return

The hero does, in fact, escape the fear and returns to his reality. In doing so he is posed with the possibility that none of what he experienced was real.

## Comedy

### The Party

There is rarely a “hero” in this story. More like a group of characters that are all interconnected in some way.

### The Miscommunication

All the characters seem to have a misunderstanding with one another. A mass misunderstanding leads to a series of unfortunate events.

### The Acceptance

The unfortunate events are reconciled and whoever was ostracized during the story is now “one of the gang”.

## Tragedy

### The Anticipation

The hero is in need of some sort of action needed for him to feel fulfillment. At this point, the hero is lacking this aspect.

### The Dream

The hero is enamored with what he wants and therefore, goes after his goal with a vengeance.

### The Frustration

As obstacles are put in the way of the hero, he must overcome them if his dream is to become a reality.

### The Nightmare

The obstacles are now so numerous that the hero has nowhere else to turn. He must escape at all costs in order to survive.

## The Death

However, the hero is destroyed, typically by violence, and loses his goal and his life in the process.

## **Rebirth**

### The Fall

The hero is set in an already tragic setting. There seems to be no escape for the hero at this point.

### The Hope

The hero seems to be on the up and up. The harsh setting seems to have receded for the hero.

### The Fall Again

Just when the hero seems to be free, he falls back into the tragic setting and must begin at square one.

### The Darkness

The tragic setting seems to continue for a long time. The darkness seems to have overpowered the hero completely.

### The Phoenix

The hero is brought so low that he must be redeemed. He is pulled from the ashes completely new by another hero.