

The Seven Basic Plots – adapted from Christopher Booker

1. Overcoming the Monster – monster can be a literal monster, or aliens, or some abstract evil

There is an evil force threatening our protagonist, their world or humanity. The protagonist must fight and slay this threat. It won't be easy, but they overcome the evil and receive a great reward.

Examples include *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Star Wars*, *The Gruffalo*

2. Rags to riches

At the beginning, our protagonist is insignificant – this could be social status, physical prowess or even confidence. They matter to no one and are often made fun of. Something happens to make them great, revealing them to be a sort of superhero.

Examples include *Cinderella*, *The Ugly Duckling*, *Aladdin*, *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*

3. The quest

Our protagonist must set out on a long journey, full of danger and obstacles. They keep going until they succeed, learning things about themselves along the way.

Examples include *Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, Disney's *Coco*

4. Voyage and return

The voyage and return is very different from the quest, despite both being journeys. Here, the protagonist travels out of their 'normal world' into something unknown or magical, before escaping back to the safety of their home. They are forever changed.

Examples include *Alice in Wonderland*, *Finding Nemo*, *Back to the Future*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The Wizard of Oz*

5. Comedy

A story made up of comedic events, normally involving mistaken identity, misunderstanding or confusion, resulting in hilarious chaos.

Examples include *Tangled*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Princess Bride*, *Twelfth Night*

6. Tragedy

There are no happy endings in the tragedy. Here our protagonist might start powerful, but by the end they will be defeated.

Examples include *Greek tragedies*, *Titanic*, *Macbeth*, *West Side Story*, *Breaking Bad*

7. Rebirth

Rebirth will allow the protagonist to change after experiencing a 'dark moment' for example enforced sleep or sickness or a malicious spell.

Examples include *A Christmas Carol*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sleeping Beauty*