22 Stories

P=The Protagonist



Temptation P has to make a moral choice between right and wrong.

The Godfather, The Sting



Rags To Riches P is poor, then rich.

Trading Places, La Vie En Rose



The Riddle P has to solve a puzzle or a crime.

The Da Vinci Code, Chinatown



Metamorphosis P literally changes into something else (i.e. a werewolf, hulk, giant cockroach) Spiderman, Pinocchio



Rescue P must save someone who is trapped physically or emotionally.

The Golden Compass, Die Hard



Tragedy P is brought down by a fatal flaw in their character or by forces out of their control.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's

Nest, Atonement



Love A couple meet and overcome obstacles to discover true love. Or – tragically – don't. *Titanic, Grease*



Monster Force A monster / alien / something scary and supernatural must be fought and overcome.

Jaws. The Exorcist



Revenge P retaliates against another for a real or imagined injury. Batman, Kill Bill



Transformation Plives through a series of events that change them as a person.

Pretty Woman, Muriel's Wedding



Fish Out Of Water P tries to cope in a completely different place/time/world. *Mr Bean, Trading Places*



Maturation P has an experience that matures them or starts a new stage of life, often adulthood. The Graduate, Juno



Pursuit P has to chase somebody or something, usually in a hide-and-seek fashion. *Goldfinger, Bourne Ultimatum*



Rivalry P must triumph over a adversary to attain an object or goal. *Rocky, The Outsiders*



Underdog Total loser faces overwhelming odds but wins in the end. Slumdog Millionaire, Forrest Gump



Discovery Through a major upheaval, P discovers a truth about themselves and a better understanding of life. Close Encounters, Ben-Hur



Escape P trapped by antagonistic forces and must escape. Pronto. *Poseiden Adventure, Saw*



Journey & Return P goes on a physical journey and returns changed.

Wizard Of Oz, Star Wars



Comedy A series of complications leads P into ridiculous situations. Ghostbusters, Airplane



Quest P searches for a person, place or thing, overcoming a number of challenges.

Raiders Of The Lost Ark, Lord of the Rings



Sacrifice P must make a difficult choice between pleasing themselves or a higher purpose (e.g. love, honour). 300, 3:10 to Yuma



Wretched Excess P pushes the limits of acceptable behaviour, destroying themselves in the process.

There Will Be Blood, Citizen Kane

source: Tennesse Screenwriting Association, Robert McKee's Story