



Hello!

I am Ashley Alexander Furrow

I am here because I love to teach, even when I can't be there in person. I created this lesson for my students this year when we were working on short stories. They loved it!

Story Archetypes



1.

Short Story Writing: Archetypes

Time: 2 50-minute class sessions

[illegible]

Learning Objectives

- 1. Students will be able to recognize archetypes in short stories.
- 2. Students will be able to identify the plot of a story and map it.
- 3. Students will draft their own “Rags to Riches” Stories.

Teaching Standards

- 1. CA RL.2.5 Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
- 2. CA RI.2.6 Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.

Materials

Short Stories

We will start with learning about 3 archetypes, so we need a short story (or two) for each: Character Flaw, Rags to Riches, and Conquering the Monster

Plot Structure slides for each archetype

Each archetype still follows the same plot structure we have learned. We just see how the events are different for the different types of stories. We will be focusing on “Rags to Riches” tales.

Google Slides for Archetypes

For distance learning, a Google Slides presentation can be used. In person, a handout for students helps them to follow along.

Fill in Story Structure Diagram

Students can use the Fill in Story Structure Diagrams at the end (pre-loaded for “Rags to Riches” archetype). Teacher can model filling in together as a class before students work individually.

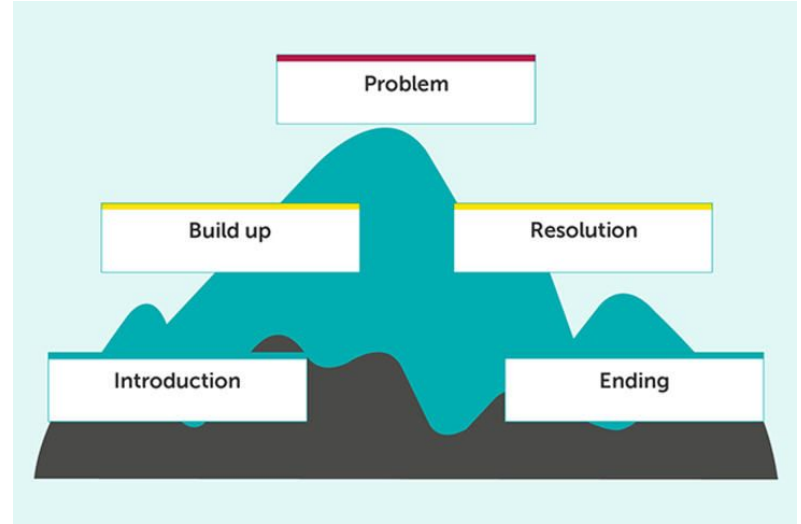
Teaching Strategies

[Think-Pair-Share | Classroom Strategies](#)

Students will work with a partner and their writer's notebooks to list all of the elements of a plot. Then we will draw the plot diagram on the board and label it.

[Shared Writing Approach](#)

The teacher models how to fill in a story plot diagram with the class before students work individually.



the Penguin, and Room on the Broom.

(5 minutes)

Remind students about the plot elements and plot diagram that we had discussed and the short stories we have read: *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, *Tacky the Penguin*, and *Room on the Broom*.

(10-15 minutes)

Students work together to come up with the parts of a plot. They list the parts for one of the stories. Then we make a diagram together.

(15 minutes)

Show the slides for the Story Archetypes and give lesson on these three types, recalling previous story types.

Lesson Steps

Direct Instruction cont.

(10-15 minutes)

Read a new story:
The Red Shoes
(adaptation of Hans
Christian Andersen
story by Gloria
Fowler).



Lesson Steps (Day 2)

Recap

(5 minutes)

Students recap *The Red Shoes* together.

Guided Practice

(10 minutes)

Show “Story Archetypes Plot Structure” slides. Ask students to decide which archetype the story would fit into (Rags to Riches). Map it on the board together.

Guided Practice

(5 minutes)

Brainstorm other “Rags to Riches” scenario possibilities on the board together.



fill in plot diagram, stories.

(5 minutes)

(15-20 minutes)

12

(10 minutes)

Character Flaw Tale Plot Structure

Plot Structure	Character Flaw Tale
Opening	Introduce Main Character
Build Up	Character Flaw is revealed
Problem (Climax)	The Character Flaw leads the Main character into trouble
Resolution	Main Character learns a lesson and changes his or her ways
Ending	All is well in the future because of this change



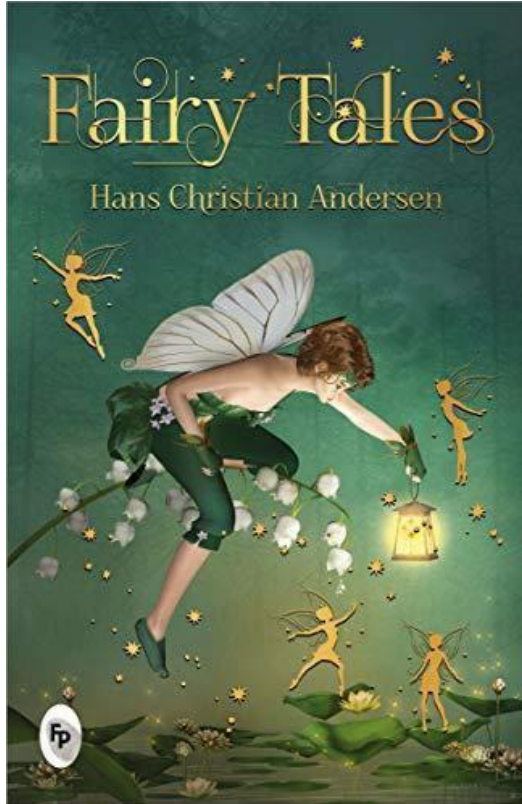
Conquering the Monster Tale Plot Structure

Plot Structure	Conquering the Monster Tale
Opening	Introduce Main Character and all is well
Build Up	A monster appears and causes problems
Problem (Climax)	The monster is difficult to defeat
Resolution	Main Character defeats the monster (this can be by “winning over” the monster, not always by fighting)
Ending	All is well again (main character is often rewarded)

Rags to Riches Tale Plot Structure

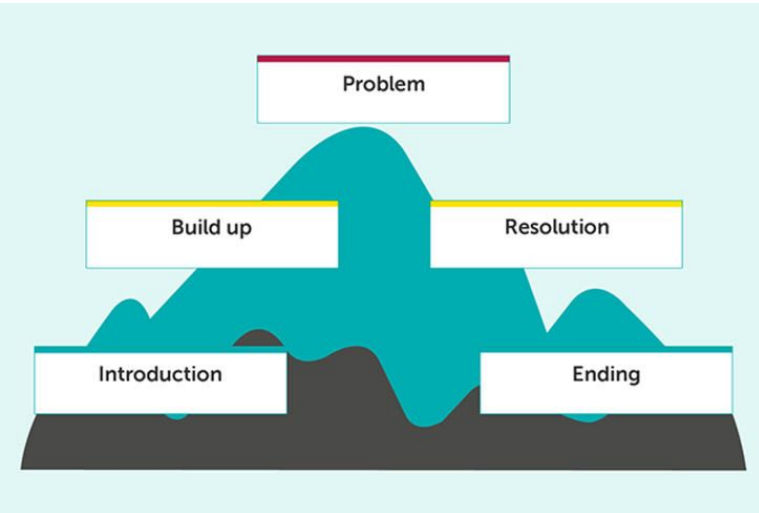
Plot Structure	Rags to Riches Tale
Opening	Introduce Main Character (all is not well)
Build Up	Main Character is sad/lonely/mistreated
Problem (Climax)	Main Character has to face difficulties because of their situation
Resolution	Main Character overcomes difficulties
Ending	Main Character achieves happiness/recognition

Story Archetypes



All story plots tend to be a particular type or “*archetype*,” if you want to use a nice fancy word. There are between 6 and 11 different types. Some stories could even be a hybrid (mix) of a few different types. You might even recognize these archetypes in some of the stories we have read this year! Knowing the different archetypes can help you think about what kind of story you want to write and help you decide how to shape it. All of these archetypes still follow a mountain arc of low on each side and high in the middle.

Story Archetypes



Think of the story plot arc that we talked about (remember the introduction, build up, problem, resolution, and ending?) as the **shape** of the story and the archetype as the **style** of the story. The story plot is like clothing- all clothes generally have the same shape as a human body (shirts for the top half and pants for the bottom half). But the archetype is the style of clothes: are they a sports uniform? Pajamas? Fancy? A Halloween costume? Think about how you want your story to go. Will your main character transform? Will they fight an enemy? You can put on clothes each day, but you probably have clothes that will work for different times. Thinking about story types helps your imagination have a style guide to guide it.

Story Archetypes



We are going to start by focusing on 3 common story types:

1. Character Flaw



The main character has some sort of flaw which lands them into trouble. The story often ends with the character learning their lesson and changing their ways or mending the damage they have done (saying sorry).

Character Flaw Examples:

The Green Man
Abel's Island
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse
Tacky the Penguin

Story Archetypes

2. Rags to Riches



The main character feels upset or mistreated because of the situation they are in at the beginning of the story. The character overcomes their difficulties and is often transformed in some way. This transformation can include either appearance, personality or opinions.

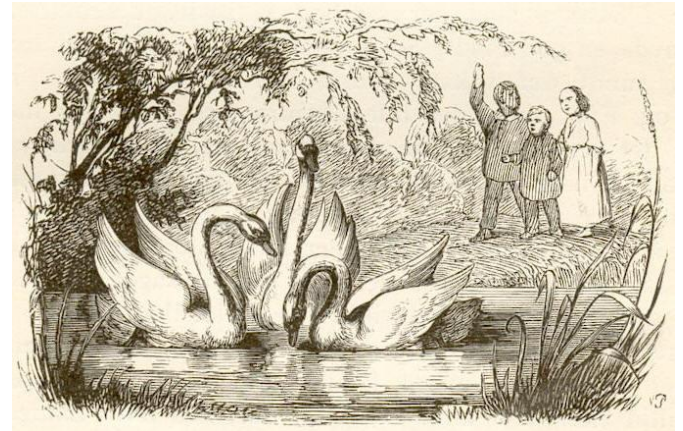
Rags to Riches Examples:

Cinderella

Beauty and the Beast

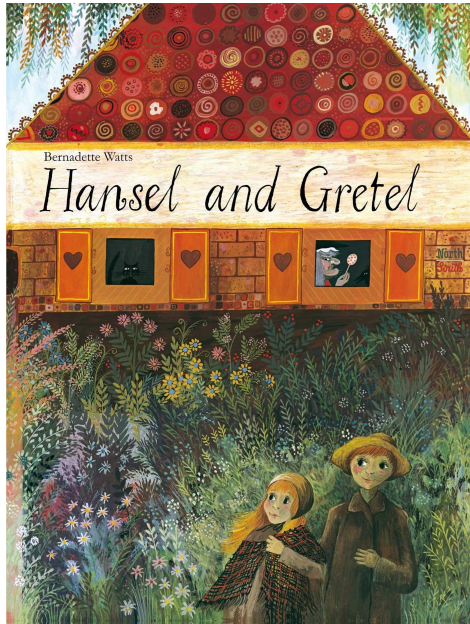
Annie

The Ugly Duckling



Story Archetypes

3. Conquering the Monster



The main character is going about their business, when a monster (or a threat of some kind that is generally another character who is the villain) appears. The threat is difficult to defeat, but the character eventually overcomes it using their resourcefulness or a positive character trait (e.g. honesty, courage, kindness).

Conquering the Monster Examples:

Most fairy tales (e.g. Jack and the Beanstalk,
Three Little Pigs, Hansel and Gretel)
Room on the Broom

Title: Red Shoes

Author: Hans Christian Anderson

1. Character & Setting:
Karen
poor
creative
shoe maker's
daughter

**2. CONFLICT/
Rising Action**

3. Climax: Karen made beautiful shoes
and the princesses wanted those.
Karen stood up for herself

4. Resolution:
Karen got money
for the shoes
and opened her
own shoe shop

5. Theme:
Rags to Riches

Author: Hans Christian
Anderson

3. Climax: Karen made beautiful shoes and the princess wanted those. Karen stood up for herself

2. CONFLICT/ Rising Action

1. Character & Setting:

Karen
Poor
Creative
Shoe makers
Daughter

- Queen's Daughter wanted her red shoes
- Queen ordered Karen to give the shoes but they were stuck

5. Theme:

Rags to Riches

4. Resolution:

Karen got money
for the shoes
and opened her
own shoe shop



Story Mountain for: _____ Name: _____

Problem
Main Character has to face difficulties
because of their situation

Characters

Build Up Main Character is sad/lonely/mistreated

Resolution
Main Character overcomes
difficulties

Introduction

Introduce Main Character
(all is not well)

Ending Main Character
overcomes difficulties

Story Mountain