

# Archetypes

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## Archetype

- A pattern in literature
  - Types of characters
  - Types of stories
  - Universal Symbols
  - Associations and expectations

## Northrop Frye

- Canadian essayist and literary critic
- Famous for his analysis of Shakespeare
- Wrote *The Anatomy of Criticism*

## Frye's Four Mythoi

Mythos = plot or story

Tragedy	Satire / Irony
Romance	Comedy

Tragedy is opposite of Comedy  
Romance is opposite of Satire

- Comedy
  - Not necessarily funny
  - Multiple overlapping plots
  - Clown and Killjoy figures
  - Death avoided
  - “Reintegration”
- Tragedy
  - Not necessarily sad – Offers optimism

- Single noble imperfect character
- Aristotelian or Shakespearean
- Five stages
- “Disintegration”
- Romance
  - Very simply – a **worthy** quest
  - Coming of age story (bildungsroman)
  - Main characters change for the better
  - Identity, true love, saving the world
  - e.g. Chaucer’s “Knight’s Tale”
- Satire / Irony
  - An unworthy quest or “fool’s quest”
  - A “harlequin” Romance
  - Main characters offer/learn nothing
  - Money, fame, sex, self-love (narcissism)
  - E.g. Chaucer’s “Miller’s Tale”

## Cycles

- Comedy
  - Morning
    - \* Dawn
  - Spring
    - \* Renewal
  - Birth
    - \* Rebirth
    - \* Renewal
  - Air
    - \* Spirituality
    - \* Idealism
  - Blood

- \* Sanguine
  - \* Idealism
- Romance
  - Afternoon
    - \* Sun
  - Summer
    - \* Ripeness
  - Maturity
    - \* Union
    - \* Marriage
  - Fire
    - \* Passion
    - \* Power
  - Yellow Bile
    - \* Choleric
    - \* Hot-headed
- Tragedy
  - Evening
    - \* Twilight
  - Autumn
    - \* Wilting
  - Old Age
    - \* Dying
    - \* Senility
  - Earth
    - \* Stability
    - \* Realism
  - Black Bile
    - \* Melancholic
    - \* Realism
- Satire

- Winter
  - \* Hibernation
- Death
  - \* Dissolution
  - \* Divorce
- Water
  - \* Mystery
  - \* Evil
- Phlegm
  - \* Unemotional
  - \* Dull

## **Color Archetypes**

### **Red**

- Passion (love, anger, lust)
- Power

### **Blue**

- Peace, calm
- Spirituality

### **White**

- Purity, virginity
- Innocence
- Male

### **Black**

- Mystery, unknown
- Evil
- Female

## **Number Archetypes**

### **Three (3)**

- Magic, mysticism
- The Trinity
- Power
- Time
- Male

### **Four (4)**

- Equality
- Stability
- Cycles
- Nature
- Female

### **Seven (7)**

- Perfection
- Unity
- Luck
- Universe
- Union of male/female