The Seven Basic Plot Archetypes
Archetype Definition:

The original pattern or model from which all things of the same kind are copied or on which they are based.
The Seven Plot Archetypes

- Overcoming the Monster
- Rages to Riches
- The Quest
- Voyage and Return
- Comedy
- Tragedy
- Rebirth
1. Overcoming the Monster
Overcoming the Monster

• A community falls under the shadow of an evil power

• The monster threatens destruction, often has in its possession a great prize

• The hero must confront the monster

• Hero makes a thrilling escape, slays the monster, inherits the prize

List as many examples as you can.
Overcoming the Monster

- Dracula
- Jack and the Beanstalk
- Star Wars
- King Kong
- The Terminator
2. Rags to Riches
Rags to Riches

• Story is often about the process of growing up

• The hero is usually inferior and disregarded by family and peers

• They live in the shadow of a dominant figure

• The hero must overcome their low status

List as many examples as you can.
Rags to Riches

• Cinderella
• The Ugly Duckling
• Alladin
• Oliver Twist
• Invincible
3. The Quest
The Quest

• Far away, there is a priceless goal worth any effort to achieve

• The hero sets out on a journey to attain the goal

• The hero must overcome dangerous obstacles to obtain the goal/prize

List as many examples as you can.
The Quest

• The Lord of the Rings

• The Lion King

• Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail
4. Voyage and Return
Voyage and Return

• The hero or heroine travels out of their familiar, everyday surroundings

• The hero is completely cut off from their comfort zone

• By a thrilling escape the hero is returned to his or her “normal world”

List as many examples as you can.
Voyage and Return

- Goldilocks and the Three Bears
- Wizard of Oz
- Alice in Wonderland
- SpongeBob Squarepants Movie
- Back to the Future
5. Comedy
Comedy

• Light and humorous with a happy/cheerful ending

• Conflict or misunderstanding becomes more confusing and ridiculous

• Resolution where conflict is resolved in a funny way
Comedy

• Despicable Me
• Jumanji
• Friends
• The Office
6. Tragedy
Tragedy

- Usually centers around a character of high status who is forced into a bad situation
- Important things are taken from the protagonist
- Could lead to revenge, justice, enlightenment, liberation, etc.

List as many examples as you can.
Tragedy

• The Titanic
• Batman The Dark Knight
• Deadpool
• Gladiator
7. Rebirth
Rebirth

• A hero or heroine falls under a dark spell

• They are trapped in some type of imprisonment, sleep, sickness, etc

• A miraculous redemption takes place to free the hero from their state of imprisonment

List as many examples as you can.
Rebirth

• Beauty and the Beast

• Sleeping Beauty