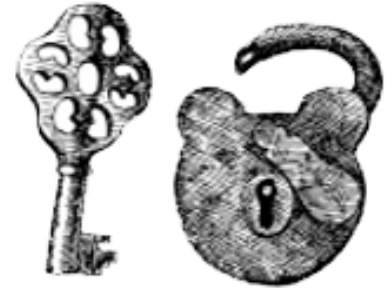


Narrative Elements of Picture Books

b. Plot

Plot refers to how the main events in a story are structured, how they relate to each other and how these events bring about a change in the character/s.



The most basic plot looks at the following:

- ❖ a character desires something
- ❖ what the character wants escapes them
- ❖ the character does things to try to achieve it
- ❖ the character either gets what they desired or learn to live without it.

Read the modelled response, take note of the plot for the "Cinderella" fairytale and complete the exercise below.

Modelled response

- ❖ *A character desires something: Cinderella wants to be free and go to the ball.*
- ❖ *What the character wants escapes them: Her step-mother and step-sister force her to clean for them, preventing her from going to the ball.*
- ❖ *The character does things to try to achieve it: She accepts the fairy God Mother's help. She goes to the ball.*
- ❖ *The character either gets what they desire or learn to live without it: Cinderella is reunited with her prince and this sets her free.*

Exercise 10: Interpreting plots in picture books



Time: 15 minutes

1. Think of a fairytale you read in childhood. Re-read this fairytale again to remind you about what happens. There are free downloadable fairy tales at numerous websites, such as <http://www.tonightsbedtimestory.com> or www.surlalunefairytales.com.
1. Identify the plot elements by filling in the following:

Fairy tale:

❖ A character desires something:

❖ What they want escapes them:

❖ They try to achieve it:

❖ Get what they desired or
learn to live without it:

2. To extend yourself, use the scaffold above to create the plot for a new fairy tale for children in 1800's England.
3. Then create a new plot outline reinventing the 1800's fairytale for a modern audience.