Quest Plot – Patricia Hruby Powell

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This is a basic quest plot. Many books, stories, movies, are built by quest plot.

Many versions of *Jack* (graphic novel, Rabbit Ears, PBS, Rosemary Wells, etc.)

*Jack and the Beanstalk*

Problem: protagonist, Jack is poor

Action: he sells cow, but he gets seeds

Plants seeds, stalk grows

Climbs into clouds, meets antagonist (cruel giant)

Giant supplies golden harp, golden egg-laying hen

Giant chases Jack down stalk, Jack cuts stalk (**climax**), Giant falls

Problem solved: Jack & Mom no longer poor.

*Harry Potter* series. Problem: evil

*Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* and most biographies.

Once a student understands the quest plot, he has a template to write satisfying stories with beginning middle and end. And tension. Students also have a means of analyzing quest plotted novels and biographies.

Protagonist has problem

Action: obstacle makes problem worse but introduces next obstacle or adventure

Obstacle, protagonist works with it, brings up other problem (danger)

Obstacle, protagonist has adventure

Protagonist solves his own problem. His quest is complete.

Discuss elements of writing as they come up.

Fiction/nonfiction; realistic; fantasy

Setting = where and when

Climax = event after which you’re pretty sure main character will have succeeded in quest

Word choice and pithy details

Show Don’t Tell – Verbs; Describe the **visual** of what you’re character is doing.