

**Calvary Christian Middle and High School  
 Summer Reading Program Alignment:  
 Multi-Year Survey of Archetypal Plot Patterns**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Plot Structure Type</b>	<b>Novel</b>	<b>Literary Analysis Assessment</b>
<b>7th Grade ELA</b>	<b>Voyage and Return</b>	<i>The Phantom Tollbooth</i> Norton Juster	<b>Guided plot questions</b>
<b>8th Grade ELA</b>	<b>Rebirth</b>	<i>The Secret Garden</i> Frances H. Burnett	<b>Guided plot questions</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Literature &amp; Composition</b>	<b>Comedy</b>	<i>The Princess Bride</i> William Goldman	<b>Plot analysis essay with cited text details from the novel</b>
<b>10th Literature &amp; Composition</b>	<b>Tragedy</b>	<i>Till We Have Faces</i> C.S. Lewis	<b>Plot analysis essay with cited text details from the novel</b>

<b>Course</b>	<b>Plot Structure Type</b>	<b>Novel</b>	<b>Literary Analysis Assessment</b>
<b>American Literature</b>	<b>Overcoming the Monster</b>	<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> Ray Bradbury <i>12 Ways Your Smartphone is Changing You</i> Tony Reinke	<b>Plot analysis with cited text details from the novel; critical multi-text synthesis writing</b>
<b>World Literature/ English 101</b>	<b>Quest</b>	<i>The Hobbit</i> J.R.R. Tolkien	<b>Plot analysis essay with cited text details from the novel</b>
<b>9th Discovery English</b>	<b>Various</b>	<i>Stormbreaker</i> Anthony Horowitz	<b>1-2 page response to topic of choice</b>
<b>10th, 11th, &amp; 12th Discovery English</b>	<b>Various</b>	<i>Gifted Hands</i> Ben Carson	<b>Paragraph responses to questions about the plot</b>

9th Grade Summer Reading: **Comedy** Plot Pattern  
*The Princess Bride* by William Goldman

**Assignment:**

1. **Read** the information about the **Comedy** Plot Pattern. Your success on this assignment depends on your accurate understanding of this pattern.
2. **Read** the book\*. While you read, you should look intently (like a detective!) for evidence of the comedy plot pattern. Specifically, look to identify the three stages in *The Princess Bride*.
3. **Note** your findings. When you return to school, you should have notes in your book (underline/highlight/note in the margins OR use sticky notes OR both). What should you make notes about?
  - a. **Study** the key ideas and key words in the definition of **Comedy** (below). **Note** specific examples of how *The Princess Bride* follows the **Comedy** Plot Pattern. For example, consider the many ways that Buttercup *misunderstands* her situation. Her misunderstanding is central to many of the comedic elements of this book.
  - b. **Identify** the three sections of the **Comedy** plot structure. Use sticky notes, bookmarks, or dog-eared pages to show where one section ends and the next begins. On your sticky notes or in your margins, **note** an explanation about why you think the sections break down where they do.
  - c. **Identify** the events in the story that, in your opinion, belong in each stage and explain *why* in your notes. Find and note at least two events that you think belong in each stage.
4. Your teacher will explain the writing assignment when you return to school and will work with you to aid understanding. Your responsibility is to read the book and take these notes. **Your teacher will check your notes and conduct discussion when you return to school; your notes and your contribution to the discussion of the novel *will be graded* and should confirm that you have, indeed, carefully read the novel.**

\*IMPORTANT!!!! You are responsible for reading only the book itself beginning on page 1. You do not need to read the Introductions or *Buttercup's Baby*, unless you are personally interested in doing so.

**Plot Patterns:**

In literary theory, some critics have identified seven basic plot patterns into which most stories fit. The seven basic plot patterns are Rags to Riches, Voyage and Return, Rebirth, **Comedy**, Tragedy, Overcoming the Monster, and Quest.

**Comedy Plot Pattern:**

Literary comedy is not the same as stand-up comedy or a movie in the comedy genre! Don't be confused! A comedy in literature is usually characterized by *an absurdly complex set of*

*problems which miraculously resolve at the climax of the story.* Often, there is a hero and heroine who are destined to get together, but some dark force is preventing them from doing so. A comedy typically contains much *misunderstanding* and *confusion*, which is eventually cleared up as *characters are shown for who they really are* and misunderstandings are clarified.

According to literary critic Christopher Booker, the Comedy meta-plot has three stages:

1. **Under the Shadow**

A world in which people are under the shadow of confusion, uncertainty, frustration, and isolation. There is significant misunderstanding; people don't know the truth about one another or about their situation.

2. **Tightening the Knot**

Confusion and misunderstanding increase until the pressure of darkness is at its most acute and everyone is in a nightmarish tangle.

3. **Resolution**

The truth comes to light, people's perceptions are dramatically changed, the situation is miraculously transformed, and the world is brought together in a state of joyful union.

--adapted from Christopher Booker's *The Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories*

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Valldeperas at [jessicavalldeperas@calvaryknights.com](mailto:jessicavalldeperas@calvaryknights.com).

9th Grade Discovery School Summer Reading 2020  
*Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz

Read the book *Stormbreaker* by Anthony Horowitz.

Choose one of the following essay topics and compose a 1 to 2 page typed response.

On the first day of school, students will be given a link to submit work to Turnitin.com and work is due on August 14, 2020, at 11:59pm.

**Essay Topic 1**

Describe the biography and career of Anthony Horowitz and discuss the public reception and popularity of the Alex Rider series. When was *Stormbreaker* adapted to film?

**Essay Topic 2**

Define and analyze the narrative style of the novel. In what person and tense is the narrative written? Is the perspective of the narrator limited or omniscient?

**Essay Topic 3**

Describe Alex's past and childhood. How does Alex feel about his uncle? How long has he lived with him? How is this information revealed as "exposition" in the narrative?

**Essay Topic 4**

Identify and discuss foreshadowing in Chapter 1, "Funeral Voices." What central conflict does Alex face in the beginning of the narrative?

**Essay Topic 5**

Describe and analyze the protagonist of the novel. How old is Alex? What is remarkable about his role in the plot and the mission of MI6?

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Newman at [marynewman@calvaryknights.com](mailto:marynewman@calvaryknights.com).