

## Pattern Two: Stuck Story

**FAQ: Is this pattern a complete story plot?**

**Answer:** This plot stands alone as a complete story just like a finished piece of art. It can also be used as the subplot of circle, switch and transformation.

**FAQ: What interesting ways can objects/characters become stuck as/by/in?**

**Answer:** Characters/objects can become stuck as/by/in:

animals, gold, statue, ice, stone, sleep, space, zipper, throat, invisible, tongue.

### 1st Stuck Story Pattern

1. Character/Object gets physically stuck due to:

\*trick                      \*act of god

\*disaster                  \*use of force

2. Motive: free person/object

3. First unsuccessful attempt at freeing person/object.

4. Second unsuccessful attempt at freeing person/object.

5. Person/Object is freed through:

\*trick                      \*luck

\*someone helps        \*hard work

\*act of god

Berlioz the Bear

by Jan Brett

### 2nd Stuck Story Pattern

1. Character takes an object/person that belongs to a second character through:

\*trick                      \*act of god        \*use of force

2. Motives: First Character tries to keep object/person.

Second Character tries to get back the object/person.

3. First unsuccessful attempt at getting back the object/person.

4. Second unsuccessful attempt at getting back the object/person.

5. Person/Object is freed by:

\*trick                      \*luck                  \*someone helps        \*hard work        \*act of god

Tiddalick, the Frog who Caused a Flood

by Robert Roennfeldt

## FAQ's About the Stuck Story Pattern/Plot

### FAQ: What is a stuck story?

**Answer:** A stuck story occurs when a character or object gets accidentally caught, or is deliberately taken, stolen, kidnapped. Stuck stories are such a simple idea and yet they have been used in a host of ways. For instance, just think about all the ways characters/objects get stuck in the movie Finding Nemo.

### FAQ: What format works best for stuck stories?

**Answer:** A simple stuck story pattern which worked for me was:

1. What caused the character/object to get stuck? Choose:
  - \*trick
  - \*act of god
  - \*disaster
  - \*use of force
2. Describe first unsuccessful attempt at freeing the character/object.
3. Describe second unsuccessful attempt at freeing the character/object.
4. Show how the character/object is freed. Choose:
  - \*trick
  - \*luck
  - \*someone helps
  - \*hard work
  - \*act of god (weather, magic, miracle)

### FAQ: Are there other variations on the stuck pattern?

**Answer:** Absolutely. The goal in finding plot patterns is to help children find a way to frame their ideas successfully. Patterns provide the motive, story problem, and a resolution. Once children become familiar with patterns, they can change them to suit their purposes.

## Stuck books you might know:

1. Grandma and the Pirates by Phoebe Gilman
2. Uncle Farley's False Teeth by Alice Walsh
3. Berlioz the Bear by Jan Brett
4. King Midas and the Golden Touch a greek myth
5. Andrew's Loose Tooth by Robert Munsch
6. Tiddalick, the Frog who Caused a Flood by Robert Roennfeldt
7. Mrs. Toggle's Beautiful Blue Shoe by Robin Pulver
8. Ordinary Amos and the Amazing Fish by Eugenie and Henry Fernandes
9. The Boy who Stuck out his Tongue by Edith Tarbescu
10. Princess Frownsalot by John Bianchi
11. The Golden Goose by Barbara Reid
12. You are Special by Max Lucado
13. The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch
14. Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
15. Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babitt