

Pattern Four: Physical Transformation Story

FAQ: Is this pattern a stand alone plot or a picture frame plot?

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

FAQ: What are physical transformations?

Answer: Scientific stages of change, growth or development found in the galaxy, or world and its living creatures.

1st Physical Transformation Story Pattern

1. Encounter: interesting way Character(s) finds a new season/setting
1. Motive: Character wants to explore: choose a season/setting
2. First attribute of season/setting explored.
3. Second attribute of season/setting explored.
4. Character returns home.

The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
Chapter 1 of
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Ch. 1 by C.S. Lewis

2nd Physical Transformation Story Pattern

1. Motive: Character wants to be able to: _____ (choose a skill)
2. First unsuccessful attempt at achieving skill
3. Second unsuccessful attempt at achieving skill
4. Skill is achieved by:
 - *trick
 - *disaster
 - *act of god
 - *skill
 - *courage
 - *lucky break
 - *someone helps
 - *hard work
 - *truth revealed or confessed

Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats

FAQ's About the Physical Transformation Story Pattern/Plot

FAQ: How did you discover this pattern?

Answer: Another teacher questioned me one day about whether any pattern existed in the books The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats and The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle. Both of these are complete stories, but neither contains any story complications (tricks, disasters, acts of god, use of force). After studying them I came to the conclusion that this pattern is closest to non-fiction writing. Its goal is to show stages of human experience, animal development or attributes of earth. A picture book using this pattern relies heavily on illustrations or else delves into the poetic language of sensory imagery.

FAQ: Aren't these rather difficult stories to write?

Answer: Due to the fact that this pattern relies on factual knowledge about the world it is easier to research than some patterns. The tricky part of the story is creating the sensory imagery vocabulary required to write it well.

Physical Transformation books you might know:

1. The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats
2. Whistle for Willie by Ezra Jack Keats
3. The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
4. The Very Quiet Cricket by Eric Carle
5. The Very Lonely Firefly by Eric Carle
6. Jeremiah Learns to Read by Jo Ellen Bogart
7. Amber on the Mountain by Tony Johnston