

Story and Allegory Creation

1st Degree paper - *The Historia Illius Itineris*

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Introduction

The basis of this exercise is to take an existing metaphor and turn it into a story that adds a chronology of events to the timeless metaphor. Stories may vary enormously in length from the very brief parable through to the epic odyssey.

Story Structure

Use a basic story template as follows:

1. **The introduction.** Introduce the characters that are involved in this story, give a little background to their nature and emotions.
2. **The beginning of the story** - the adventure begins.
3. **The middle of the story** - this is the metaphor that you have been given to work with.
4. **The end of the story** - a conclusion of sorts.
5. **The moral of the story.** What the listener can take away as a lesson from this story.

Suggestions: (i) use as much idiomatic language as possible (ii) engage all the senses (iii) don't try to be funny. (iv) don't try to be interesting, just tell the story as it is.

An example:

The metaphor: "I am standing on a 10 meter pillar that is on top of a hill. I can see the countryside in all directions, I feel vulnerable and struggle to maintain a balance. There are no people around that I can see."

So we already have the basis for **3. The middle of the story.** Let's see what unfolds:

(Introduction) "Jane was a well known figure in the land of the people of very short stature. A people who were most familiar with the great outdoors, they had a love for the countryside and for nature. There was nothing they enjoyed more than seeing the sun rise on a new day and at the end of each day they would retire to the comfort of their homes. With their fertile lands of rolling hills and countryside everyone knew that there was one person who stood out from the crowd. There was The One who was upstanding day and night, observing out to the horizon in all directions, seeing in each new day and watching out across the lands all night.

The village people knew her as "The One", but ordinary people would get to know her as Jane.

(The Beginning) The One had been prophesied for many generations across the lands. The One would stand tall, The One would lead, The One would be looked up to and

admired by everyone from all around, The One would be the closest to God of all the village people.

And then one day it happened. A rumour went around the village, urging people to go west to the centre of the lands to the hill with the greatest view. Go west they said, together we will go our way. We will leave some day, together, your hand in my hand, together, we will make our plans.

And so, together the people went. They went West and life was peaceful there and they saw The One.

(The Middle) Upon a pillar on the hill, stood The One. Standing tall, but looking uncomfortable, despite her lofty position, she seemed to be struggling to maintain balance, as though afraid of coming down to earth.

The village people gathered and began to murmur amongst themselves. Looking up to Jane they began to wonder if she was stuck up and unable to come down to earth. "Come down!" they shouted, "come down and join us, we will look after you." But Jane didn't listen. She had worked hard to get to where she was that day, and she had no desire to let herself down. Besides, with all the people at her feet, looking up to her, Jane worried that some of the village people were plotting her downfall so that they could take her position. All those people and their concerns were beneath her, so Jane carried on in her position as The One.

(The End) "She is stuck up there!" one of the villagers cried. "She is afraid of us!" cried another. "How can she ever lead us when she is not one of us," cried the first, "she refuses our help and our support." And so the villagers left to what they knew was right and The One was left behind all alone, stuck up and struggling to maintain her position. And into the long dark night she stood alone, just as she had many nights before, to await a new day and hope things would brighten for her, but of course, deep down she knew differently.

(The Moral of the Story) *One is the loneliest number. It cannot stand alone, it is only the beginning of an endless number of possibilities. Many who are number one tend to think of number 2 as a secondary figure. It takes wisdom and humility to know that the greater the number, the greater the accomplishments.*

Exercise:

Take each others metaphors and spin a story around them using the structure above.

If you create a particular good example, you may wish to submit it to The Body of Knowledge.