

Appendix 3.1. Kurt Vonnegut’s “Shapes of Stories” Lecture

In this YouTube video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP3c1h8v2ZQ>, Vonnegut provides a brief introduction to his views on common plots. In this rendition, he humorously explains and charts three major plots employed by creative writers. He gives each plot shape a title but reminds the audience that these are just placeholders; the protagonist is not necessarily restricted by the title, particularly in terms of gender. First he tells the story of the “Man in Hole,” in which the protagonist gets into and then out of trouble. He then illustrates “Boy Gets Girl” (he calls this plot chart “Boy Meets Girl” in other places), which charts the common story in which a boy (or girl) meets, breaks up, and then gets back together with a romantic partner. Finally, he relates the story of “Cinderella” or the “Happy Ever After” story. The “Kafka” story mentioned in the lesson plan is included in Vonnegut’s *A Man without a Country* collection of essays.