

USING STRUCTURAL PATTERNS IN WRITING A Writer's Look at Organization by Toni Buzzeo

ORGANIZATION (questions to ask):

- Is there a **beginning, middle, and end**?
- Is the piece **logical**?
- Is the STRUCTURE **interesting and appropriate**?

THREE FAMILIAR PATTERNS: Structure/Organization

1. **Frame Story (Story Within A Story)**
2. **Circular Story**
3. **Pattern of Three**

1. What is a **FRAME STORY**?

- A **structural pattern** in which the exterior story encloses an interior story which often mirrors the **plot and theme**.
- **FRAME STORIES:** *The Sea Chest* (Toni Buzzeo); *In the Small, Small Night* (Jane Kurtz)
- **FRAME STORY BIBLIOGRAPHY**
<http://storytrail.com/pdf/MoreillonStoriesinStoriesbib.pdf>

2. What is a **CIRCULAR STORY**?

- A **structural pattern** in which the story begins and ends with the same or very similar events, the plot having circled back to its beginning.
- **CIRCULAR STORIES:** Numeroff's *If You Give...books*; *The Runaway Bunny*; *50 Below Zero*; *One Dog Canoe*; *No T. Rex in the Library* (Toni Buzzeo)

3. What is the **PATTERN OF THREE**?

- A **structural pattern** in which the main character tries and fails to achieve his goal three times before succeeding (or tries and succeeds on the third try).
- **PATTERN OF THREE:** *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Golden Oranges*, *Bootsie Barker Bites*; **Titles by Toni Buzzeo:** *Little Loon and Papa*; *Dawdle Duckling*; *Ready or Not, Dawdle Duckling*; *Adventure Annie Goes to Work*; *Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten*