Simple Plot Structures: (And picture book/story examples.)*

1. Cumulative ➔ Toppling Structure:
   - (Traditional) “The House that Jack Built.”
   - Greene. *This is the Teacher.*
   - Polacco. *In Enzo’s Splendid Gardens.*

2. Decreasing Structure:
   - (Traditional) “The Tailor.”
   - (Traditional) “Ten Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed.”
   - Wells. *Bunny Money.*

3. Increasing Structure:
   - (Traditional) “The Little Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly.”
   - Feiffer. *Bark, George.*
   - Grossman. *My Little Sister Ate One Hare.*

4. Simultaneously Increasing and Decreasing Structure:
   - Gilman. *Something from Nothing.*

5. Parallel Structure:
   - Asch. *Just Like Daddy.*
   - Crum. *Click!*
6. Story Within a Story Structure:
(For more sophisticated writers, the outer and inner stories may have varied plot structures.)
- Noble. *The Day Jimmy’s Boa Ate the Wash.*
- Wiesner. *Three Little Pigs.*
- Say. *Kamishibai Man.*
- Yashina. *Seashore Story.*

7. Time Line Structures:

7A. Straight time line:
- Arnosky. *Every Autumn Comes the Bear.*
- Carle. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar.*
- Zimmerman. *Trashy Town.*

7B. Around the clock or full circle:
- Martin. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom.*
- Numeroff. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.*
- Sanfield. *Bit by Bit.*
- Wheeler. *Bubble Gum, Bubble Gum.*

8. Traditional Rising Action Structure: (Exposition, rising action, climax, denouement)
- Crum. *Who Took My Hairy Toe?*
- Stanley. *Saving Sweetness.*
- Yorinks. *Company’s Coming.*