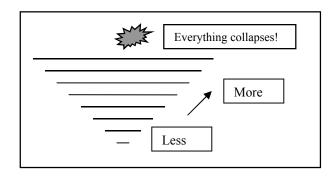
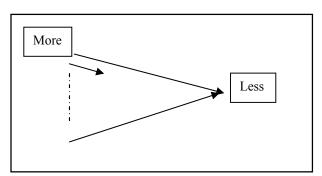
# Simple Plot Structures: (And picture book/story examples.)\*



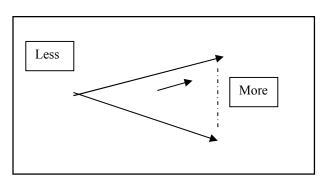
## 1. Cumulative→Toppling Structure:

- (Traditional) "The House that Jack Built."
- Greene. *This is the Teacher*.
- Polacco. In Enzo's Splendid Gardens.
- Robart. The Cake That Mack Ate.



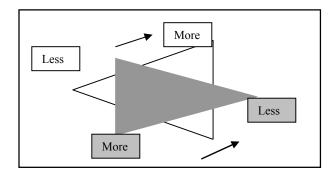
## 2. Decreasing Structure:

- (Traditional) "The Tailor."
- (Traditional) "Ten Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed."
- Schaefer. *The Biggest Soap.*
- Wells. Bunny Money.



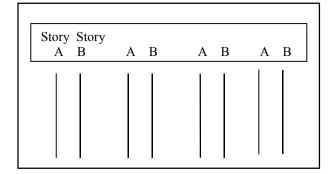
## 3. Increasing Structure:

- (Traditional) "The Little Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly."
- Feiffer. Bark, George.
- Ginsburg. *Mushroom in the Rain*.
- ☐ Grossman. My Little Sister Ate One Hare.



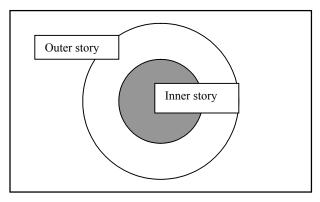
# 4. Simultaneously Increasing and Decreasing Structure:

- Crum. *The House in the Meadow.*
- Gilman. Something from Nothing.
- Hutchins. *The Doorbell Rang*.



#### **5. Parallel Structure:**

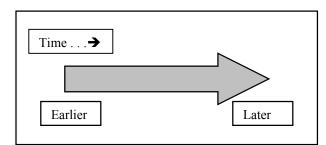
- Asch. Just Like Daddy.
- Crum. Click!
- □ Noble. *Meanwhile Back at the Ranch*.



#### 6. Story Within a Story Structure:

(For more sophisticated writers, the outer and inner stories may have varied plot structures.)

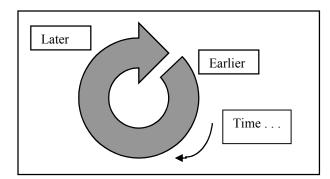
- □ Noble. *The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*.
- Wiesner. Three Little Pigs.
- Say. Kamishibai Man.
- A Yashina. Seashore Story.



#### 7. Time Line Structures:

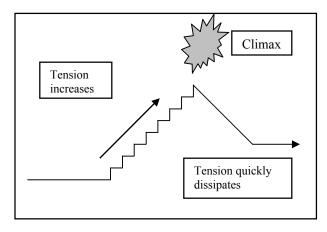
7A. Straight time line:

- Arnosky. *Every Autumn Comes the Bear.*
- Carle. The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
- Zimmerman. Trashv 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*.

<sup>\*</sup>From "Story Skeletons: Teaching Plot Structure with Picture Books," by S. Crum. Book Links, V. 15, #5, May 2006.