

# 7 Types of Plot Twists

*This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:*

[All About Plot Twists](#)

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**Anagnorisis** - Anagnorisis means "discovery." This type of plot twist is when the protagonist suddenly recognizes something about his or herself or another character.

**Deus ex machina** - Latin for "God out of the machine," deus ex machina means the introduction of an unexpected event or person that solves the problem. Because it's artificial, it's rarely used in modern fiction.

**False protagonist** - The main character is not the true main character. He or she is killed off early or unexpectedly.

**Peripeteia** - Peripeteia means a reversal of fortune, typically from good to bad. The opposite of peripeteia is eucatastrophe, where things elevate from bad (very bad) to good.

**Poetic justice** - Poetic justice occurs when a character is rewarded (or punished) for his or her actions. Poetic justice is often used to deliver sweet payback to a villain.

**Red herring** - The red herring plot twist is all about misdirection. The reader is following a false direction but doesn't realize it until it's revealed.

**Unreliable narrator** - The unreliable narrator is someone who seems believable and trustworthy at first, but after a startling revelation, is revealed to be untruthful.