

- **Literary scholars have long recognized that people tell different kinds of stories**
 - **Drama**
 - **Comedy**
 - **Tragedy**
- **More recently, humanities and social science academics have turned their attention to pathographies, or stories of illness**
- **Here too they have identified different narrative typologies**

Paying attention to elements of narrative

- **Frame**
 - **Context**
 - **Historical, cultural, socioeconomic factors**
- **Voice, point of view, audience**
 - **Who is the narrator, the person telling the story?**
 - **Whose voice is being heard?**
 - **Whose voice is suppressed or absent?**
 - **What is the point of view?**
 - **Who is the intended audience?**
- **Characters**
 - **Who are the main characters in the story?**
 - **Who is left out?**
 - **Is the physician a peripheral or a central character?**
- **Time**
 - **Is there a sense of urgency?**
 - **Is time in transition or is it a demarcation?**
 - **What is the patient's view of the past?**
 - **What are the patient's hopes for the future?**
- **Plot**
 - **What happens in the patient's story?**
- **Theme**
 - **What are the larger themes addressed?**
 - **Transcendence of the human spirit**
 - **Good vs. evil**
- **Desire**
 - **What motivates or drives the patient's story?**