Stories about overcoming adversity

Created by Inaburra Senior Library 2020

Rags to riches stories

What are these stories about?

These are stories about people who face some sort of difficulty- sometimes they're born into hardship, sometimes they unexpectedly face a big setback in life. Throughout the story we see how they overcome the hardship, grow as a person, and often receive opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have been given.

The history of stories about overcoming adversity

- These sorts of stories have been popular throughout history. Sometimes they were true stories about historical figures who faced difficulties, sometimes they were fictional stories.
- There are a lot of stories in the Bible about people who overcame adversity- think about Abraham, Joseph and Moses.
- In other ancient literature there were fictional stories, poems and plays about people who overcame adversity. These tales were intended to teach wisdom to the people hearing them.
- Modern stories about people overcoming adversity are intended to inspire us and encourage us in our own difficult situations.

Common themes
Illness, injury and disability
Harm caused by others
Grief
Disaster
Loss
Poverty
Unexpected setbacks
Physical journeys