

Tricky Tales Table

Kind of trick/tale	Kind of trickster/trickstar	Effect of trick	example
Amusing or diverting	joker, simpleton, jester, wise fool.	provide diversion through humor and convey mostly positive feel	Uncle Albert
Morally debatable or ambiguous; reprehensible	devourer or demon, betrayer, seducer, thief	Narrate negative circumstances and emphasize wrongdoing, sinister tale	<i>Roxie from Chicago—tricksters cross boundaries, so she slipped in here to get 15 seconds more of fame</i>
Situational or strategic/ method creates momentum	conjurer, facilitator, translator	Strategy of trick (machinations) appreciated over the meaning or significance	Bert as Hermes figure, verges on being a transformer—a “bricoleur transformer type” (p. 217) <i>Mama, Velma and especially Billy Flynn from Chicago could be here as well.</i>
Beneficial or improving	unveiler or truth teller, challenger, rebel, transformer, culture heroine.	confers benefits on the community—transforms, improves, brings value	Mary Poppins

Each type can be further linked to:

Conjurer—success is in creating images, illusions, innuendos to encourage belief, to obstruct passage, or to promote access.

Facilitator—manipulates circumstances in order to influence projected outcomes. Expert in foreseeing responses according to how personalities tend to react in particular situations. Uses sleight, cunning and “veiling.”

Translator—Proficient, even ingenious, in devising and resolving linguistic equations, in understanding the relationship of metaphor to reality, in interpreting how behavior may be “designed” according to implicit directions. Uses invention, dreams, fantasy, vision, and imagination.

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Unveiler or truth teller—exposes the lies and hypocrisies in society and frequently suggest “right” alternatives to existing corrupt or failed conditions

Challenger—contests the values that society accepts or leaves unexamined, such as the justice that demands force,, the power that depends on inherited status or traditional roles, including gender roles.

Rebel—in and through herself/himself, opposes the systems that operate to compromise or obstruct human freedom. Takes on the risk and suffering through his/her proclamations or actions.

Transformer—changes the way in which others think and act or the expectations they have concerning matters affecting tradition, social position, and political structure.

Culture hero-heroine—brings forth new models for being and doing by “having been” and “having done.” Impacts on value systems, social organizations, material culture.

Such an individual is raised to symbolic status and comprehends all that is worthy, the ideal to which human beings aspire. She/he incorporates all other beneficial trick-doers from unveiler to transformer. (Jurich, 1998, pp 199-201)