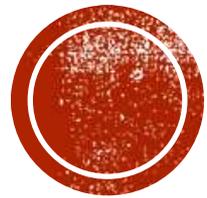


# STORY PRINCIPLES & GENRE CONVENTIONS

Media 8





# STORY PRINCIPLES



# STORY PRINCIPLES - PLOT

- When writing a story it must have a beginning, a middle and an end
- The reason for having all the piece is so that a story makes logical sense
- K.I.S.S. is the best principle when writing a story.
  - It means to keep it simple sweetheart.
  - As such the more complications or confusing elements added the higher the likelihood that the audience will not understand



# CHARACTERS

- Characters must have defining features that make them uniquely different

- Activity:
  - Describe someone else in the classroom with as much detail as possible.
  - You will then describe these details to someone else in class and see if they know who you are talking about



# THEME

- The theme has to do with the type of story just like in movies
  - Horror
  - Drama
  - Comedy
  - Action
  - Adventure

▪ Activity

- Make a list of 5 other themes.



# ENVIRONMENT OR SETTING

- Having conversations in stories is good, but knowing about the location is just as important
- For example, in the Chamber of Secrets we would not be afraid if we did not know about the huge snake skin and the smell of the area.

- Activity
  - Describe this classroom with as much detail as possible



# MOTIVATION

- Why are the characters doing what they are doing?
- The motivation behind what they do is important as it enables the audience to feel at one with the book.
- For example, when Katniss takes the place of Primrose in “The Hunger Games” you know the motivation of Katniss is to protect her little sister.



# CONFLICT

- Some sort of conflict has to happen and the characters have to be able to overcome some sort of challenge

- Activity
  - Identify 4 conflicts and how they were resolved

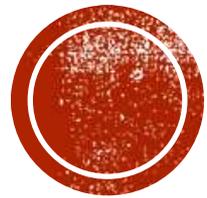




# COMPLICATIONS

- Complications must be added as a single conflict does not produce an interesting story or movie
- It makes the audience want to know more





# GENRE CONVENTIONS



# DRAMA

- Needs to draw out specific emotions, typically sadness to make you react.
- Little House on the Prairie is a good example
- It warms your heart when the family helps each other



# HORROR

- There must be many horror elements
  - Screaming
  - Gore
  - Fearful elements that make the audience feel afraid



# COMEDY

- Must contain elements that are funny
- There must be enough funny elements occurring in the sequence



# ACTION

- Must contain many elements of action
- Examples include Jackie Chan movies
- In these movies there is some speaking to make the film make sense, but there are many fighting scenes



# DOCUMENTARY

- Must be based on reality
- They can vary in length from a matter of minutes to a couple hours
- The topic can be just about anything but typically nature seems to predominate this area



# ASSIGNMENT

- Need to choose 3 of the following and write an essay about the conventions for specific genres
- Adventure. Animation. Biography. Crime.
- Family. Fantasy. History.
- Horror. Music. Musical. Mystery. Romance. Sci-Fi.
- Short. Sport. Superhero. Thriller. War. Western.
- Criteria
  - Each genre must have a 2 paragraph description (8 sentences total)
  - School Appropriate
  - Will be due the next class

