

THREESTORY
METHOD

THREE STORY METHOD

W O R K S H E E T

| | |
|----------|--------------------------|
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| Project: | TEMPLE OF THE DOGS |
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Plot

The Pixar Pitch

Once upon a time, [SOMETHING HAPPENS]:

Every day, [SOMETHING HAPPENS]:

One day, [SOMETHING UNUSUAL HAPPENS]:

Because of that, [SOMETHING INTENSE HAPPENS]:

Because of that, [SOMETHING EVEN MORE INTENSE HAPPENS]:

Until finally, [THE CONFLICT RESOLVES]:

Example: Once upon a time, there lived a boy named Luke. Every day, he helped his uncle on the farm and with the droids. One day he stumbles upon a mysterious message from Princess Leia. Because of that, he meets Obi-Wan who explains his Jedi heritage. Because of that, he is drafted into the Rebellion's air fleet. Until finally, he lands the perfect shot to destroy the Death Star.

Your Pitch

Once upon a time, there was a man named Layne who had lost his wife during a childbirth because the doctor, Dr. Riley Price, decides to try and save the child instead of his wife. The child also dies. Every day, Layne grieves for his wife and child aboard the Teku ship he lives on. One day, Layne is put into a group to be taken off the ship and sent to a nearby planet the Teku send humans whose biomarkers have been depleted of energy. During the trip down to the planet, something goes wrong with Layne's navigation and he doesn't land where he is supposed to. Because of that, Layne lands in the middle of nowhere but comes across Dr. Price who has a child with a rare blood disorder with her. Because of that, Layne and Dr. Price decide to work together to get to the hive before their oxygen runs out. During their trip, Dr. Price's oxygen tank is damaged. Until finally, Layne gives his gear to Dr. Price so that she can live and help the young girl get to safety, sacrificing himself.

The Logline

When [CONFLICT OCCURS], [PROTAGONIST] must [OBJECTIVE], or else [STAKES].

Example: A teenage boy from a remote planet discovers a mysterious power that he must use to defeat a galactic, evil empire.

When the navigation system on his pod fails and he lands in the middle of nowhere on a remote planet, Layne must work with the doctor responsible for killing his wife and son to get a young girl with a rare blood disorder to safety before all three of them run out of oxygen.

Structure

For the entire story (beginning, middle, end)

Act 1 Conflict (Beginning)

Act 1 Conflict (Beginning) [WHAT SITUATION OR EVENT FORCED THE PROTAGONIST OUT OF HIS/HER STATUS QUO?]

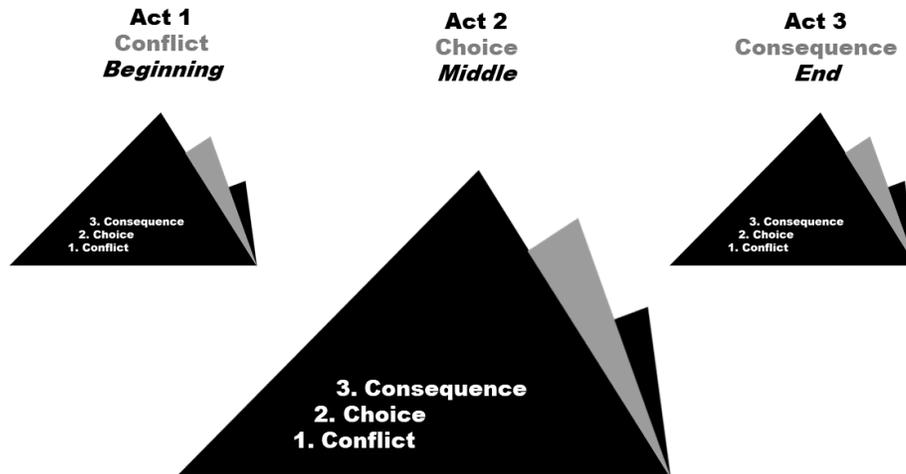
Act 2 Choice (Middle)

Act 2 Choice (Middle) [WHAT IS THE BIGGEST, MOST DIFFICULT DECISION THE PROTAGONIST MUST FACE IN THE STORY?]

Act 3 Consequence (End)

Act 3 Consequence (End) [WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THE CHOICE? WHAT IS THE NEW STATUS QUO?]

Three Story Method: Three Act Structure



CONFLICT - Example: "Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope."

Layne is part of a group of humans being sent exiled from the Teku ship Sona because of their biomarker being depleted of energy. During the trip down in a pod, his navigation system fails, throwing him off course from where he is supposed to land. Once he gets down there, he encounters Dr. Price, the woman he deems responsible for killing his wife and son. She needs his help getting a sick child to safety.

CHOICE - Example: Does Luke rely on his computer to make the shot, but knowing he's going too fast, and a more experienced pilot has already missed, and Luke is their last chance or does Luke turn off the computer and use the Force which he hasn't mastered and others look at cynically?

Knowing they don't have enough oxygen for the three of them to make it to the hive, do they continue to travel and risk running out of oxygen, or does Layne give the doctor his oxygen tank and tell her to get the girl there without him?

CONSEQUENCE - Example: Luke has transformed from whiny farm boy to intergalactic hero as he's awarded a medal by Princess Leia.

Layne gives his oxygen tank to Dr. Price, telling her that she needs to stay alive to help the girl and the people at the hive. He lies down, thinking of his dead wife as he dies.

12 Stages – NOT USED FOR SHORT STORIES

Genre

How will the protagonist grow or change over the course of the story? If there is no change, explain why.

He goes from having a vengeful hate against the doctor he deems responsible for killing his wife and son to have sympathy for the decision she was forced to make in the moment.

What is the setting and when does the story take place?

The Teku ship Sona and a remote planet.

Commercial genre (from Amazon.com).

Science Fiction

Theme

What is the story really about? What are you trying to say about life, humanity, the world, etc. through the story?

Examples:

Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

Women are and can be, as powerful as men.

Technology should be used with caution.

Ancient history and rituals matter.

Things aren't always what they seem.
There are two sides to every story.
Sometimes the best form of revenge is forgiveness.

Character

Example:

[visualize a picture of Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker here so we don't get sued]

Name: Luke Skywalker

Age: 19

Brief lists of physical traits: Blond hair, blue eyes, small build, older teenager

Occupation: Farmer

Marital Status: Single

Close Family and Friends: Uncle Owen, Aunt Beru, Obi-Wan, C3PO, R2-D2, Leia, Han, Chewbacca

Enemies: The Empire

Archetype: Hero (Main Protagonist)

Special Skills: The Force

Wants: Luke wants to leave Tatooine and his uncle's farm to see the galaxy.

Needs: Luke needs a challenge that will help him grow beyond being a farm boy and into the hero who shares his gift with the greater world.

Intention: To be a famous fighter pilot.

Obstacle: His mundane life.

The lie he/she believes: His life will improve if he just gets accepted to the Star Fleet.

Protagonist:



Name: Layne

Age: 42

Brief lists of physical traits: Black hair, green eyes, scar under his right eye

Occupation: n/a

Marital Status: Widower

Close Family and Friends: Alisha (deceased wife)

Enemies: Dr. Price

Archetype: Hero

Special Skills: n/a

Wants: To never see Dr. Price again and live out the rest of his lonely life in peace.

Needs: To understand Dr. Price's side of the story and forgive her.

Intention: To get Tanya safely to the hive.

Obstacle: Lack of oxygen in their tanks.

The lie he/she believes: That he will never be able to forgive Dr. Price for what she did.

Notes:

Antagonist:

[paste picture of actor from specific movie role here]

Name: The Planet

Age: n/a

Brief lists of physical traits: dusty, hard to navigate, no breathable oxygen

Occupation:

Marital Status:

Close Family and Friends:

Enemies

Archetype:

Special Skills:

Wants:

Needs:

Intention:

Obstacle:

The lie he/she believes:

Notes:

Other characters:

Dr. Riley Price
Tanya

World

Robert McKee's Setting Dimensions

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Period | Location |
| Duration | Level of Conflict |

Example:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Period: A long time ago.</i> | <i>Location: A galaxy far, far away.</i> |
| <i>Duration: A few months?</i> | <i>Level of Conflict: The battle between good and evil.</i> |

| | |
|---|---|
| Period: Several hundred years in the future | Location: Remote dust planet |
| Duration: Several hours | Level of Conflict: A race against time. |

Rules of the world:

[list them here]

Planning

One story beat per scene or chapter. For each story beat consider:

Who?

What?

When?

Where?

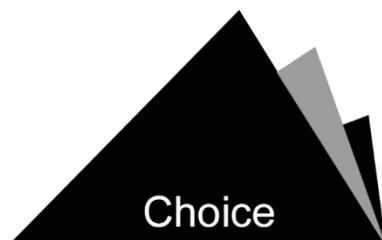
Why?

How?

Example: Scene 12 // Day 78 // Luke POV // the Death Star // Night



On his way to the Millennium Falcon to escape the Death Star, Luke hears light sabers.



Should he intervene in the fight and save Ben but give up Leia, or does he leave Ben to a certain death to escape the Death Star with Leia to save the Rebellion?



Luke leaves with Han Solo, Princess Leia, and crew. Ben is killed by Darth Vader.

Editor's Note: The following are rough story beats created prior to drafting. The "Outline" pages that follow was created after the final revision. We're including both so you can see how story beats and an outline can be adapted as the story evolves.

Beat 1

Protagonist is on a transport ship and shot off to a 'prison' sort of planet. He had problems inside the pod and lands only to discover that his navigation system has broken during the landing.

Beat 2

He is hiking and comes across the doctor who he blames for his wife and child dying. He wants to kill the doctor now that they are out in the open, but the doctor has a child who was injured during the fall. They need each other to get to safety and join up.

Beat 3

The group comes across a sentient being/other human and there is a fight and struggle where the doctor's oxygen equipment is damaged.

Beat 4

Does the protagonist let the doctor die who killed his family and get the child to safety, but risk there being no other doctor at the facility to treat the child's injuries? Or does the protagonist give the doctor his own equipment to ensure the child is safe and the doctor lives, but the protagonist dies?

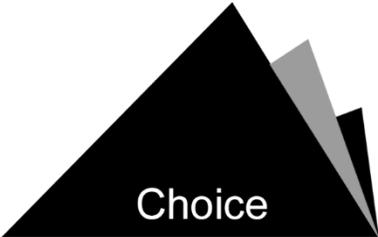
Outline

Scene 1 // Day 1 // Layne // Teku Ship Sona // Time Not Available



Conflict

Conflict: On his way to the C Deck to load into his pod, Layne encounters Dr. Price, the woman who he deems responsible for killing his daughter and child during childbirth.



Choice

Choice: With Layne leaving the ship Sona, does he reveal who he is to the woman and attack her while he had the chance (and possibly his last chance) or does he hold in his desire for revenge and continue on to the pod as directed?



Consequence

Consequence: Layne decides not to get his revenge on the woman and goes to his pod. On the way down to his destination, the pod's navigation system fails.

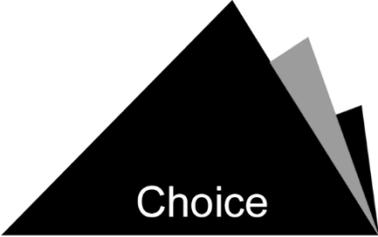
Outline

Scene 2 // Day 1 // Layne // Layne's wrecked pod // Time Not Available



Conflict

Conflict: Layne lands, but he has no idea where he is. He's decided that without enough oxygen, he's going to die. A woman shows up and he hears her voice in his communicator. It's Dr. Price. He tells her who he is, that she killed his wife and son, and that he wants to die in peace without her around. But she tells him that she has a child with a rare blood disorder and that she can't get her to the hive without Layne's help.



Choice

Choice: Does Layne help the doctor who he despises, or does he stay and die in peace by himself?

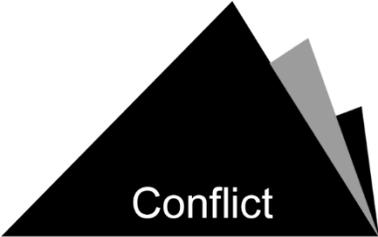


Consequence

Consequence: Layne decides to at least go see the little girl and check out the situation.

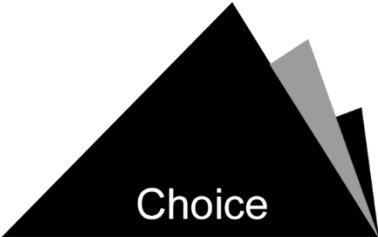
Outline

Scene 3 // Day 1 // Layne // Dr. Price's pod // Time Not Available



Conflict

Conflict: Layne arrives at Dr. Price's wrecked pod and meets the little girl, Tanya.



Choice

Choice: Does he work with Dr. Price to get the girl to the hive, or does he abandon the doctor and take Tanya alone?



Consequence

Consequence: Knowing he needs Dr. Price's navigation system, the three set out for the hive together.

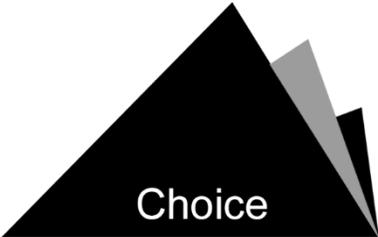
Outline

Scene 4 // Day 1 // Layne // On the planet // Time Not Available



Conflict

Conflict: The dust storms are making increasingly difficult to cross the terrain. In addition, Price is urging Layne to stop and allow the girl to rest. He resists, and Tanya falls down. Price informs Layne that Tanya's disorder makes her tire easily.



Choice

Choice: Do they rest and waste precious time and oxygen, or do they stop and rest?



Consequence

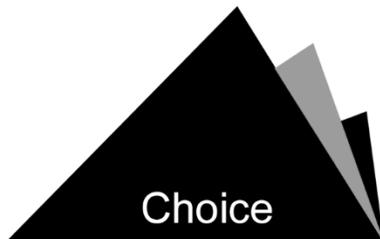
Consequence: Layne decides he is going to carry Tanya so that they can keep going.

Outline

Scene 5 // Day 1 // Layne // On the planet // Time Not Available



Conflict: As they continue their journey, Price finally brings up Layne's dead wife and son and tries to get Layne to have some mercy for the choice she had to make.



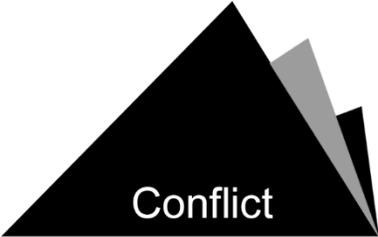
Choice: Does Layne agonize and listen to Price's plea for forgiveness, or does he commit suicide now, knowing that they likely aren't going to make it.



Consequence: He allows Price to talk, and he has a moment where he finally has sympathy for her. Then Tanya sees jettisoned pods, but they are still about two hours from the hive with the oxygen depleting rapidly.

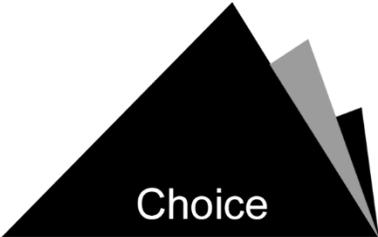
Outline

Scene 6 // Day 1 // Layne // On the planet // Time Not Available



Conflict

Conflict: Layne has realized they can't all make it to the hive. They don't have enough oxygen.



Choice

Choice: Do all three of them try to make it to the hive but likely all die, or does Layne give his oxygen tank to Price so that she and the girl can make it?



Consequence

Consequence: Layne unhooks his oxygen tank, knowing that Price needs to be alive for the people at the hive. He says his goodbyes, and then sits down and thinks of Alisha as he dies.