Storytelling for Everyone

Week One



All About Plots

Edie Everett & Karon Weber Sept 16, 2024

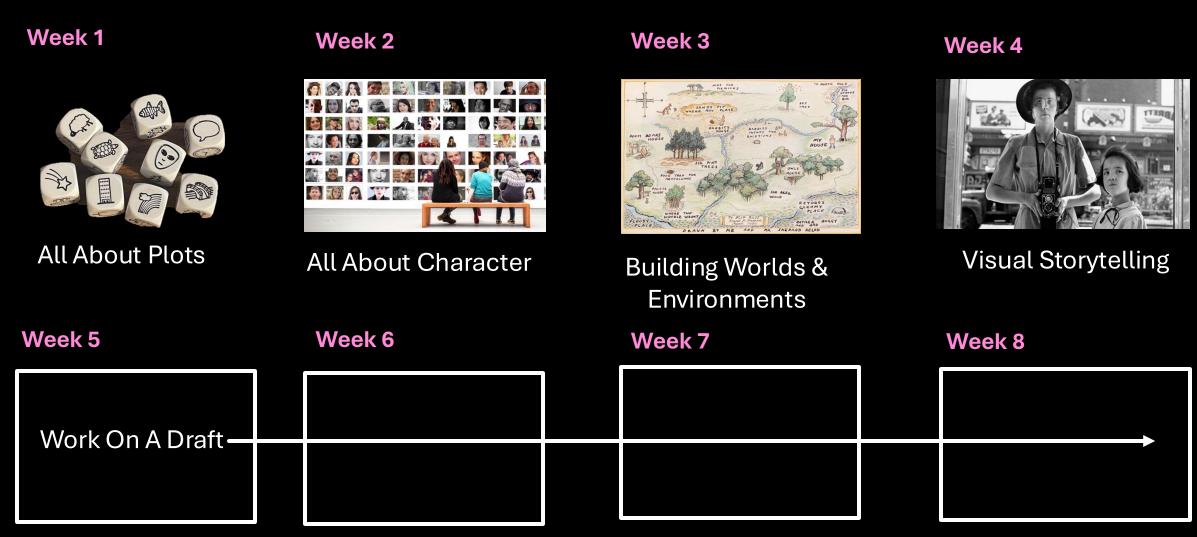
Welcome to Storytelling for Everyone

While we wait to begin...

- Think about 3 of your favorite stories Film, book, song, comic, play, myth. article, family tale...
- Scribble down a quick synopsis for each A couple of bullets describing the plot, characters and setting
- ❖ Pick one to share with the class

 This will happen a bit later and thanks in advance for participating!

Welcome to Storytelling for Everyone!



Thoughts on Dialogue



Take A Spoon

Tell us what this is instead

- 1. Who uses it?
- 2. What does it do?
- 3. How does it help the user?

Then please introduce yourself and say a bit about what kind of stories you are interested in writing



Stories are sense making mechanisms

They assist in enabling a personal relationship to the content to help with understanding

As a storyteller, your job is to make it as easy as possible to understand and care

The goal of telling a story is to engage your audience



The engagement contract

Storyteller:

- promises a story worth listening to
- owns the lens

Puts the audience in the front row and provides the perspective that makes them care and curious about the characters journey.

Audience:

- will give you undivided attention as long as they are engaged
- owns the interpretation based on what they hear/see
- owns the decision if a story is good

Bring their personal experiences, cultural backgrounds and individual interpretations to the narrative which influences the meaning and experience of the story.

Study

- People listened to the same story at different times and locations.
- Their heartbeats were captured during the experience.

Finding:

 The heartrates of the people during the same parts of the story went up and down together.

Story drives the heartbeat.

MIND AND MATTER: SUSAN PINKER

Storytelling Makes Hearts Beat As One

Research shows that listening to the same narrative leads our heart rates to rise and fall in unison

By Susan Pinker

Oct. 9, 2021 at 12:02 pm ET

⇔ Share

∆A Resize

Listen (2 min)

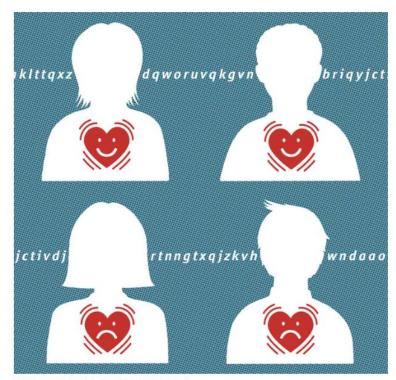


ILLUSTRATION: TOMASZ WALENTA

Psychologist Susan Pinker explores new discoveries in the science of human nature. Read previous columns here.

A human heart is so much more than an organ. No one says they left their pancreas in San Francisco, for example, or that two kidneys beat as one. Yet

Storytellers work from 3 answers

Who is your audience? (Never everyone)

People who like ...

Historians

Children

Executives

Will they care to listen?

Entertainment

Evidence

Education

Economics

What are you persuading them to do?

Laugh, scream, buy in

Cultural preservation

Be curious, learn more

Invest and fund

How to engage the audience?

Is it timely?

Are you adding something new to a known story?

Does it have a unique angle or perspective?

Does it ask users to act or express opinions?

Is it shareables?

Does it celebrate an idea, person or place?



LOCAL STORIES

THAT CAUSE

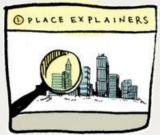
ENGAGEMENT





Local areas are saturated with news. But Major Breaking News stories are the BIG stories that affect the lives of a local area as a whole.

Ex. Hurricane Sandy Makes Landfall.



Every city has traits, quirks, mysteries and habits begging to be dissected. Place Explainers shed light on these questions.

Ex. Why Does Seattle Have So Few Kids and So Many Dogs?



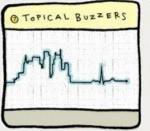
Think "awww," think
"awesome," think
"hilarious." Most of all,
think positive: Feel-Good
Smilers are made up of
happy or funny stories.

Ex. Newborn Orca Calf Reported in Puget Sound.



Locals love to brag about their area. Crowd Pleasers zero in on that feeling of pride by highlighting positive news and local successes.

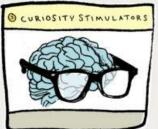
Ex. Seattle Ranked 2nd-best City in the Country.



A Topical Buzzer is the local story everyone's talking about right now. The key is timing: You must

create it as people are buzzing.

Ex. Space Shuttle Endeavor Arrives in California.



A Curiosity Stimulator is something geeky, unusual, remarkable, unbelievable or clever that's tied to your local area.

Ex. A Rideable 4,000-pound Spider-Robot Being Built In Somerville.



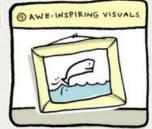
News Explainers take local stories and make sense of them for people. They illustrate why or how something happened.

Ex. Everything You Need to Know About California's Ballot Measures.



When people encounter a Provocative Controversy, two things happen: they get ticked off and highly opinionated.

Ex. Backlash After State Kills Entire Pack of Wolves.



People love beautiful images of their town, city or state. Awe-Inspiring Visuals capture that wonderment through photos and videos.

Ex. Video: A Stirring Time-lapse of Pacific Northwest Scenes.

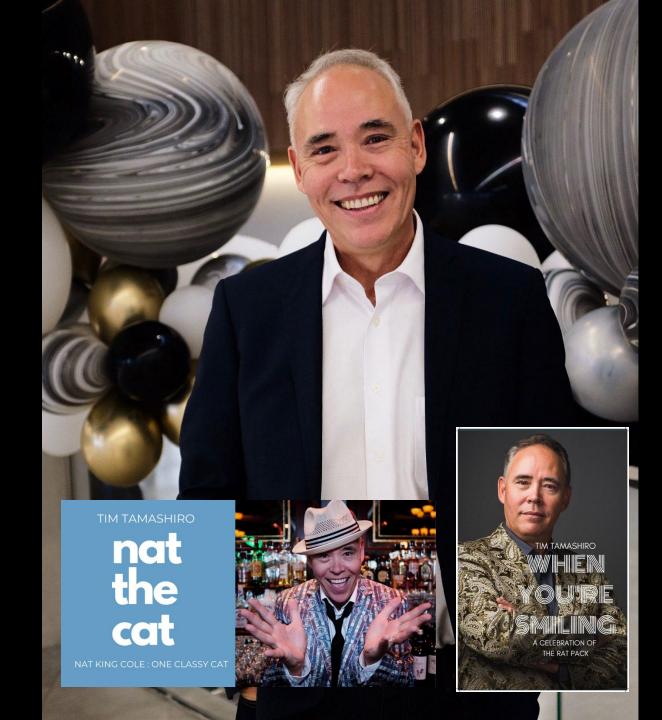
ILLUSTRATIONS BY RUSS GOSSETT. @ 2012 NPR DIGITAL SERVICES

Example: Tim Tamashiro

CBC Radio Host

"Early in my training, the coaches taught me that there are only four kinds of stories to tell on the radio: ... "head, heart, pocketbook and transformation radio stories would the the focus of the narratives I would tell. The stories I would write and share each day would make the listeners think and feel..."

"The coaches inspired me to find tales that would matter to the listeners. The stories needed to be meaningful. I worked very hard to find ones that related to the songs, and the song writers. When I found a story, I would figure out a meaningful way to understand why it felt meaningful to me. Did it share facts or an emotion? My challenge was to write each story and to deliver it on the radio so that it delighted the audience."



3 Story Building Blocks

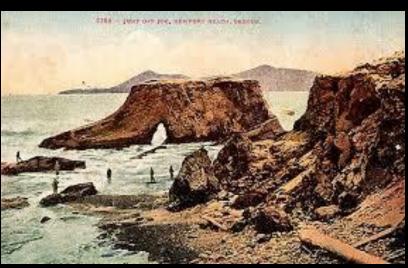
The Character(s)	+	The World the Story + Takes Place In	The Challenges they Encounter

Imagine a story

The Character(s)

- The World the Story
 Takes Place In
- + The Challenges they Encounter







Rocks with holes in them

Oregon Coast

An Array of Possibilities

Some Oregon Piddock Stories We Could Tell

1. Personal: curiosity



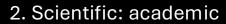
























3. Cultural: what role did it play













4. Historical: brush with greatness













5. First Person Perspective; what does it feel like?



Story Cubes

Stringing together elements to make a story



Break into groups

Take a set of cubes

Shake them to reveal your elements

Write a story that uses all of the elements



Your Story Cubes

The World the Story The Character(s) The Challenges they Takes Place In Encounter

Let's Hear Your Story



Stories work when the hero grows

WANT

The motivation behind the Hero's goal.
What the hero desires and believes will make them happy.

FLAW + LIE

What personal characteristic (FLAW) combined with personal belief (LIE) is preventing the hero from achieving their goal

NEED

What will make the hero happy?

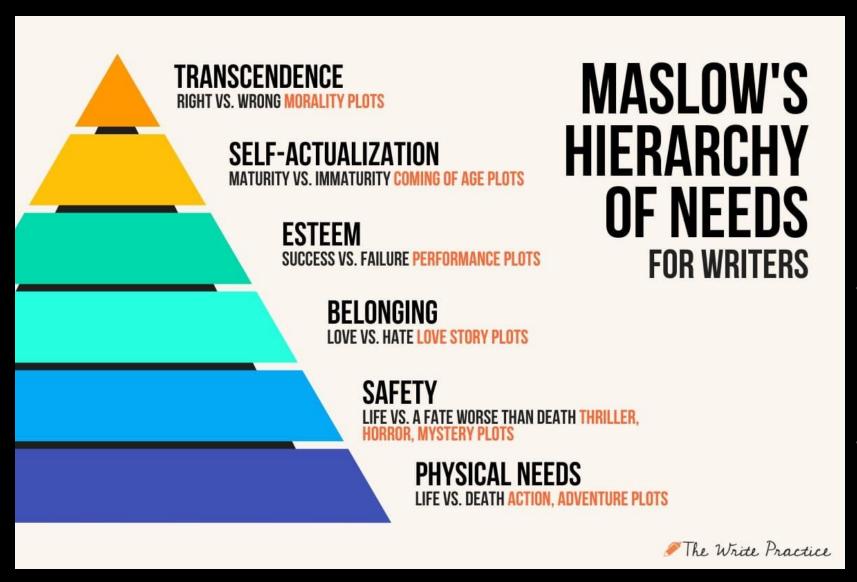
The NEED overcomes the hero's flaw and counters the LIE they've believed up until the climax of the story. Recognizing this need is what prompts the hero to change.

Acting on this need is what allows them the triumph in the end.



* Original goal may or may not be met.

Themes: Thriving and Surviving



Physical, Spiritual Relational

- People care about how people survive and thrive
- Products that enable thriving and surviving sell

The bigger character growth -- the better the story

Overcoming The Monster

A protagonist faces an evil force or antagonist and decides to confront and defeat this enemy to restore balance and safety.

Comedy

Misunderstandings, mistaken identities, or confusing situations that create humorous scenarios. Often the confusion or conflict is eventually resolved, leading to a happy ending.

Rags to Riches

The protagonist begins in a lowly state and achieves a significant transformation through a series of events, often involving wealth, status, or power.

Tragedy

The protagonist's fatal flaw causes their downfall or a series of unfortunate events. Constructed to inspire sympathy in the audience.

Quest

Journey towards a specific goal or experience. Often, overcoming obstacles leads to personal growth and self-discovery.

Rebirth

The protagonist experiences a massive transformation, often spurred by a realization or event that changes their perspective or lifestyle.

Voyage & Return

The protagonist embarks on a journey to an unfamiliar world. They face trials and tribulations throughout their journey before ultimately returning home, often changed or enlightened by their experiences.

Quest Example: Raiders of the Lost Ark

Stories work because they take you inside a character's quest trying to accomplish something

Character's evolution as they encounter and overcome the obstacles in their way until they get what they need.

BASIC STORY MAP

PROTAGONIST: INDIANA JONES, teacher and archaeologist

Skill: Fearless adventurer and archaeologist

Misbehavior: Impulsive and clumsy

Achilles Heel/Flaw: Afraid of snakes

EXTERNAL GOAL: To recover the Ark of the Covenant

INTERNAL GOAL: To protect Marion and respect the Ark

MAIN DRAMATIC CONFLICT: Belloq/ the Nazis

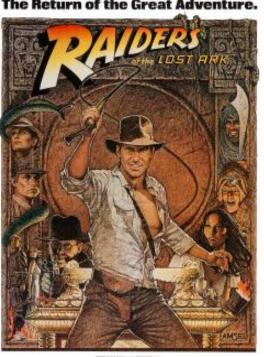
THEME: Respect for the supernatural

CENTRAL DRAMATIC QUESTION: Can Indy recover the ark from the Nazis?

ENDING: The ark is opened and Indy closes his eyes, saving himself and Marion.

ARC: Indy goes from a lone, jaded atheist to a loving boyfriend and believer.

LOGLINE: A fearless archaeologist teams up with his scrappy, jaded ex-girlfriend to hunt down and capture a religious relic before the Nazis can obtain it.





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Pick one of your stories and summarize

What is the Theme?

What kind of Story?

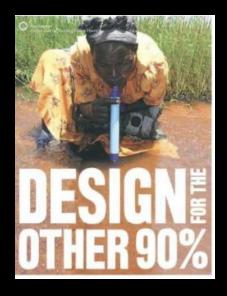
Who is the **Protagonist?**

What is their Want?

What is their Need?

How do they Evolve?

One of my favorite stories



From Design for the Other 90%

In 2011, Designers Cynthia
Koening and Shradha Rao from
Wello Design took on a project to
help improve people's access to
clean water in India.



Rajasthan. India

PROBLEM TO SOLVE

Water collecting impacts many rural women's ability to do anything else, including getting an education, earning income and often interrupting their children's schooling.



USER RESEARCH

Interviewed 1500 community members, researchers and experts.

DESIGN GOAL

Improve the experience of collecting and storing water.

KEY FINDINGS

25 percent of these women's time each day is spent collecting water.

Many must trek up to five miles daily to the nearest water source with large, heavy plastic containers balanced on their heads.



Solution: The Water Wheel

- 45L capacity is 2-5X more efficient
- Ergonomic design reduces physical strain
- Food grade material supports water storage
- Balanced size and shape increases performance on tough terrain
- Built-in handholds allow for better handling while filling and emptying.



Articulated goal enables measuring impact



Design supported the entire end to end user journey



Launched in May 2015, in partnership with with HDFC Bank, the WaterWheel has been distributed to 12,000 people in the most remote parts of India [May 2022]

Why is this an engaging story?

5 Key Components





Observation and Detail

Brings to life the details and sparks curiosity and caring. It's a subject that most people haven't thought about.

Emotional Resonance

Taps into core emotions and the content is relatable and memorable. Gives runway for exploring the the emotional core of an experience.

Structure and pacing

It has a beginning; middle and ending delivered in a manner that keeps the audience engaged.

Characters and World Development

Well crafted characters can make even everyday events compelling. Make them interesting!

Theme and message

Themes give stories purpose and drive the message

How Stories Work

- 1. Make you care
- 2. Impel you to ask questions
- 3. Answers grow interest and lead to the next question

THE STORY SPINE

THE SIMPLE FOUNDATIONS OF MANY STORIES

BEGINNING

- I ONCE UPON A TIME ...
- 2 EVERY DAY ...

THE EVENT

3 BUT, ONE DAY ...

MIDDLE

- 4 BECAUSE OF THAT ...
- 5 BECAUSE OF THAT ...
- 6 BECAUSE OF THAT ...

THE CLIMAX

7 UNTIL FINALLY ...

END

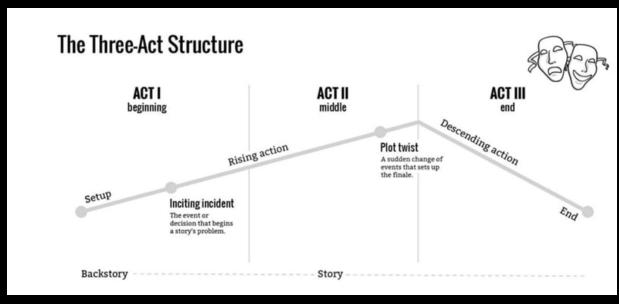
8 AND, EVER SINCE THEN ...



Why is this an engaging story?

Evolution in 3 acts





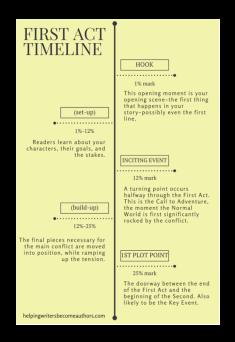


Discovery: Water collection task disadvantages women and disrupts quality of life

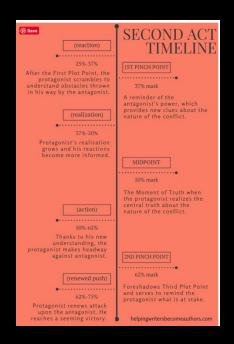
Journey: the messy learning phase that included the research and trial and error in design and manufacture

Resolution: Change in form improved function that led to call to action.

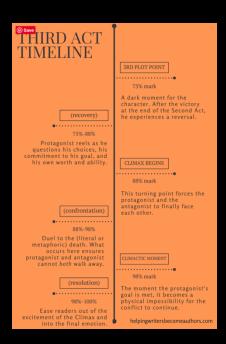
The 3 Act Structure



•Act One: The introduction of the characters, their back story, their world and a snapshot of the landscape that has sent them on this journey.



•Act Two: Brings the choices and actions the main character must make as they attempt to overcome the escalating obstacles in front of their goals



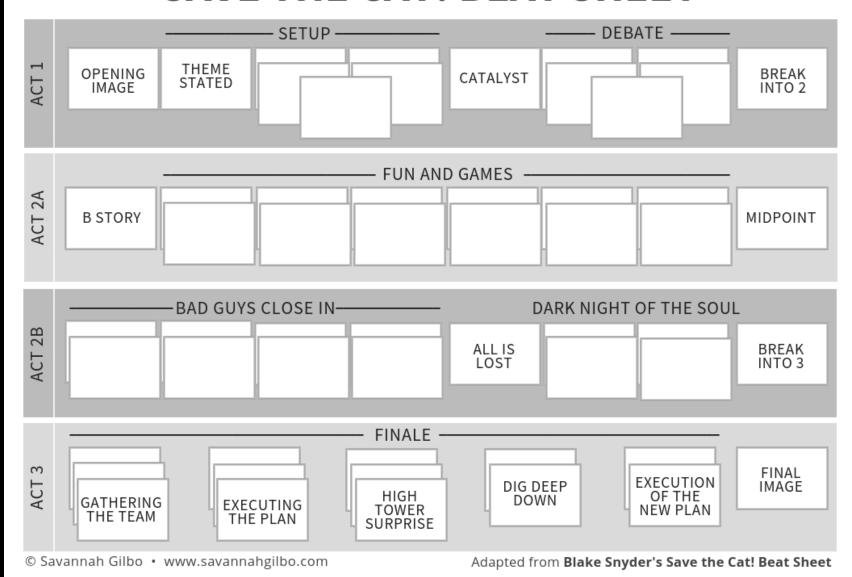
•Act Three: The final test of the main character which resolves with growth of the main character.

Beats: Moments of activity that move the story forward



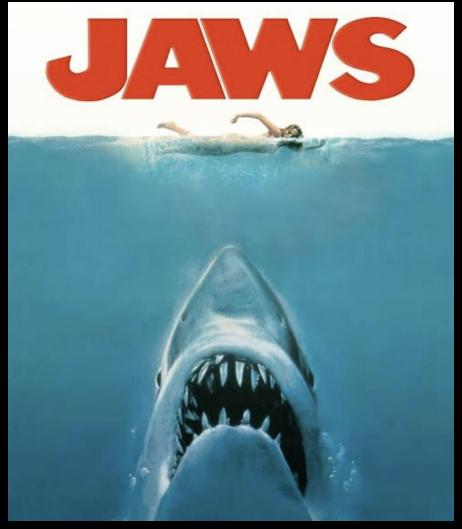
Beat Sheets

SAVE THE CAT! BEAT SHEET



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Raiders of the Lost Ark 52	
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3:30 Indyenters Homb Ajjus 1 12 Bellah throws Mingle of	The state of the state of the
10 00 Belloch enters 1 16 Bagewell Snates!	Eller and the state of the stat
12:30 Endyhates Snakes 1 17 Plane fight	Bezon (See all 1)
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18 00 Arkestablished 131 Indy Marion HE orbort	Nazistate art 102
20 00 Marion mentioned 1 33 Indys Marion 555	Emarion - A6 trady vepart
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23 00 Indy Departs 1 42 Bazooka Jones	
25 00 Marionenters/punches Endy 1 45 Ark opened	Sallah exits Sallah exits Street (1 tht / bare) Manie Chase 170,400 Manie Chase 17
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Research 5	Research 5

Beat Choreography





Three guys take on a shark to save a beach community





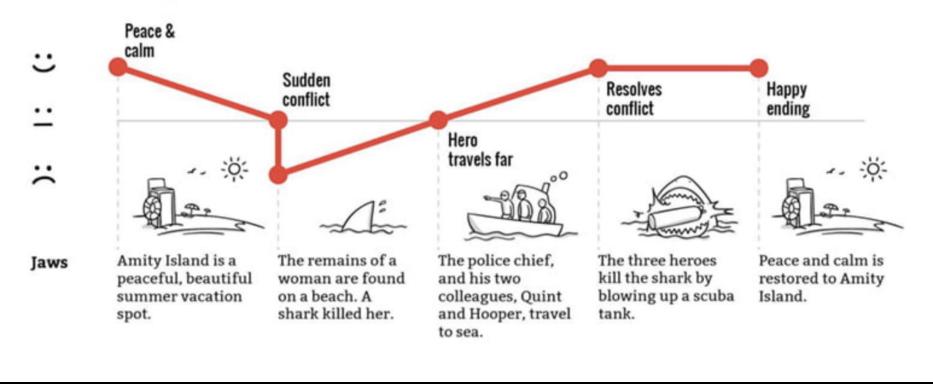
As experienced at a beach community drive-in



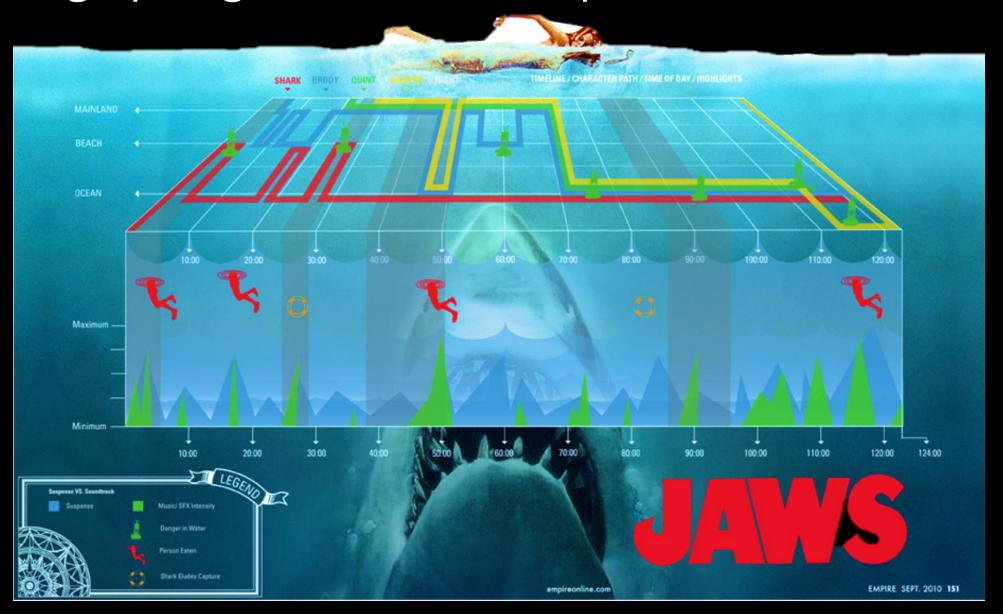
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlhxglZJSbk

Each step takes the audience on a journey

Overcoming the Monster



Choreographing the audience experience



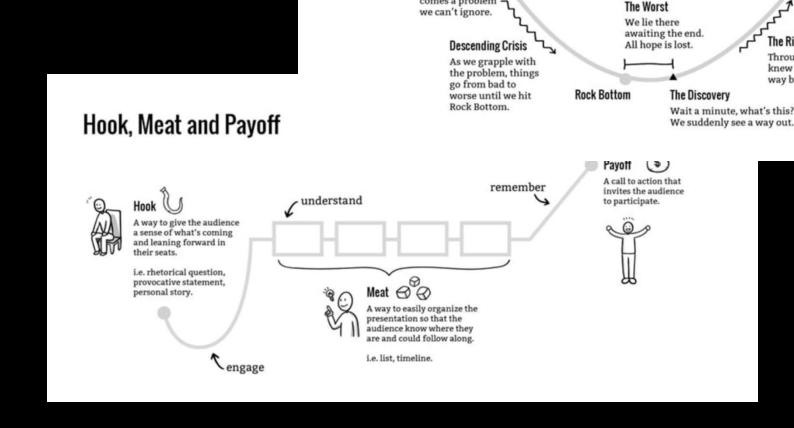
Theory and Practice

Kurt Vonnegut
"The Shapes of Stories"



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP3c1h8v2ZQ&t=10s

Using questions to drive the action forward



The Drama

One fine day...

Maybe everything

isn't perfect, but we're doing okay. The Challenge

Out of nowhere

comes a problem -

The Lesson
We come away

We don't just make it

home, we burst through

into a whole new world of

The Return

Through abilities we never

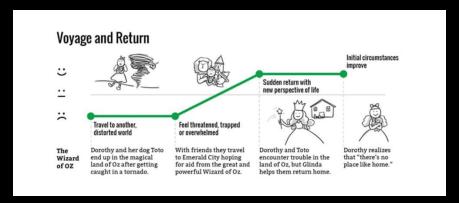
knew we had, we fight our

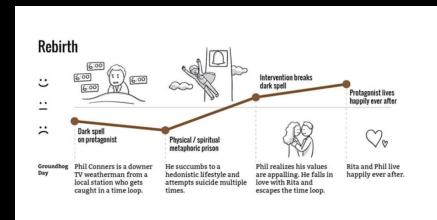
way back to the surface.

possibility.

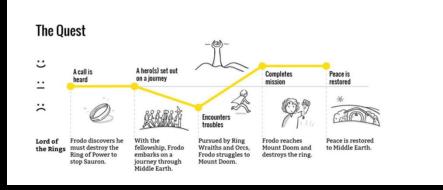
with a new gift

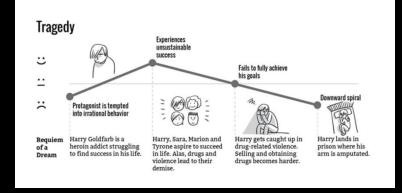
that we'll never forget.





Once upon a time there was (blank) Everyday (blank) One day (blank) Because of that, (blank) And because of that (blank) Until finally (blank)





Christopher Booker's seven story archetypes

Pick one of your stories

Once upon a time there was (blank)
Everyday (blank)
One day (blank)
Because of that, (blank)
And because of that (blank)
Until finally (blank)

Share With Us

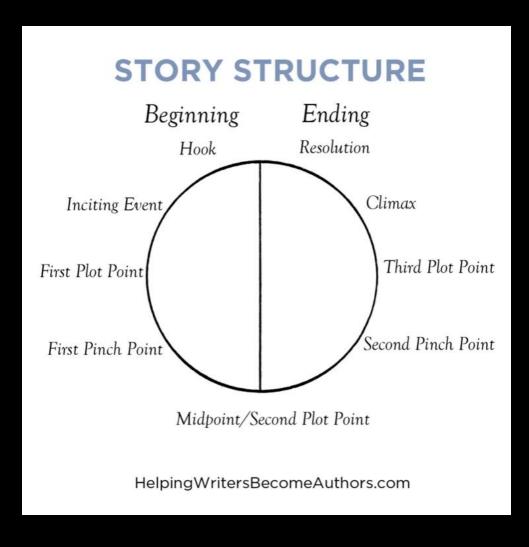
Once upon a time there was (blank) Everyday (blank) One day (blank) Because of that, (blank) And because of that (blank) Until finally (blank)

The Matrix of Story Structure

THANK YOU, ROBERT CARLSON!

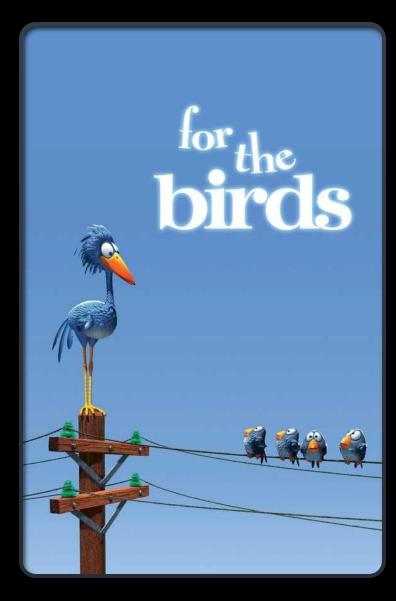
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19	Introduction, Response to Orientation, Incident; Present a Puzzle, Larger Prodem Curiosity Introduced		Hero is driven to solve the problem; First attempt	to solve the of actual or subplots main tension resolution or subplots		ension; efore	Increasingly hi stakes, Frenzied po "All is lost moment	ice triggered by			
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ROSTON	PRIMITIVE	INTEGRITY	ENTIRE DEPRAVITY		BEGUN	BEGUN RECOVERY			CONSUMMATE HAPPINESS		
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Story Structure



- Hook: the question/hero is in opposite position from story end
- Inciting incident: something changes from the norm
- First plot point: propels the character to enter the story
- Pinch: Something goes wrong, character has to solve problem
- Midpoint: Character moves from reaction to action
- Pinch 2: Something goes very wrong
- Second plot point: Lowest point, all hope is lost
- Third plot point: Final turning point, ultimate confrontation
- Climax: Highest point of conflict
- Resolution: End state/ hero is in opposite position from start

Story Structure



- Hook
- Inciting incident
- First plot point
- Pinch
- Midpoint
- Pinch 2
- Second plot point
- Third plot point
- Climax
- Resolution

Example: For the Birds



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWIVoW9jAOs&t=1s



ACT 1





Hook

Inciting Event

1st Plot Point

ACT 2







1st Pinch Point

Mid Point/2nd Plot Point

2nd Pinch Point

ACT 3







3rd Plot Point

Climax

Resolution

Always driving towards a resolution

Situation-Opportunity-Resolution

Situation

What's happening now. An unbiased view of the current conditions.



Opportunity

Opportunity is an alternative path if you wish to cast the presentation in a hopeful light.



Resolution

The proposed product/ service or solution that meets the challenges. Make sure you have evidence to add credibility to the story.

Situation-Complication-Resolution

Situation

What's happening now. An unbiased view of the current conditions.





Resolution

The proposed product/ service or solution that meets the challenges. Make sure you have evidence to add credibility to the story.

Complication

The challenge ahead. Use data to back this up. It shines a light on the problem and adds tension to the story.

Your Turn with the Moth Deck





STORY PROMPT

THE MOTH

Tell us about a time the wait was worth it.

STORY PROMPT

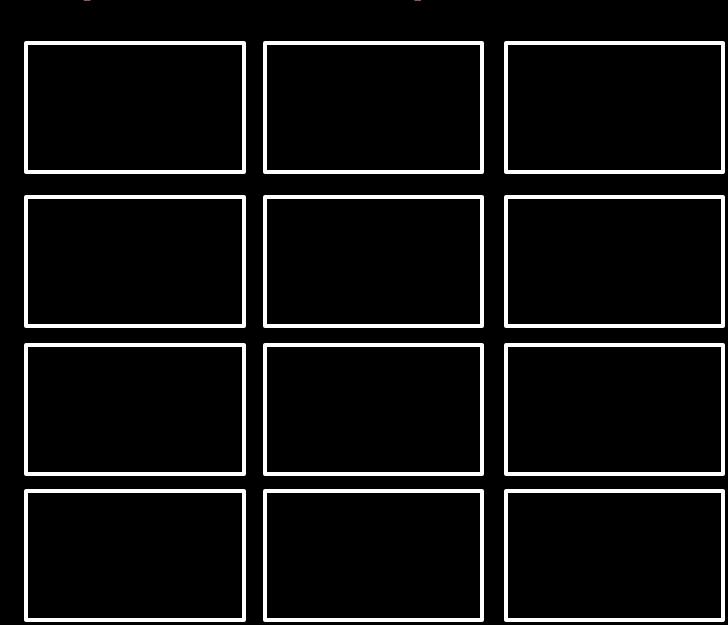
THE MOTH

Tell us about a time you had to let something or someone go.

Tell us about a time you felt seen.

Build a beat board for your moth story

- Hook
- Inciting incident
- First plot point
- Pinch
- Midpoint
- Pinch 2
- Second plot point
- Third plot point
- Climax
- Resolution



Let's Share Our Stories

Say Hello To The Class Project!

Week 1 Week 2 Week 3 Week 4 All About Plots Visual Storytelling All About Character Building Worlds & Environments Week 5 Week 6 Week 7 Week 8 Present a draft Work on a draft Time, feedback Time, feedback and support and support

Hope:

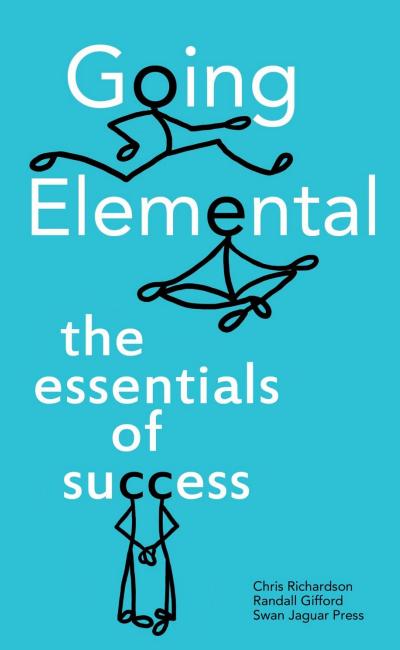
Everyone creates a story to share during the last class

Project Directions:

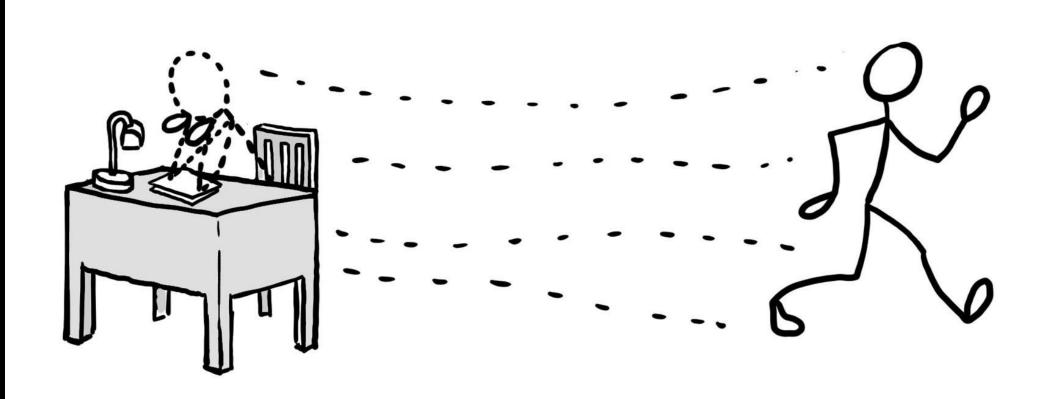
Book
Storyboard pitch
Graphic novel
Pitch Deck
Pecha Kucha
Script
Short video
Better idea ...



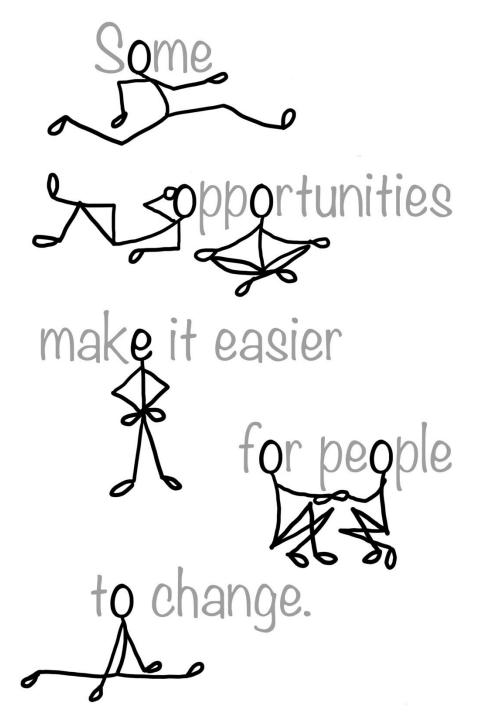
Drawing for Everyone

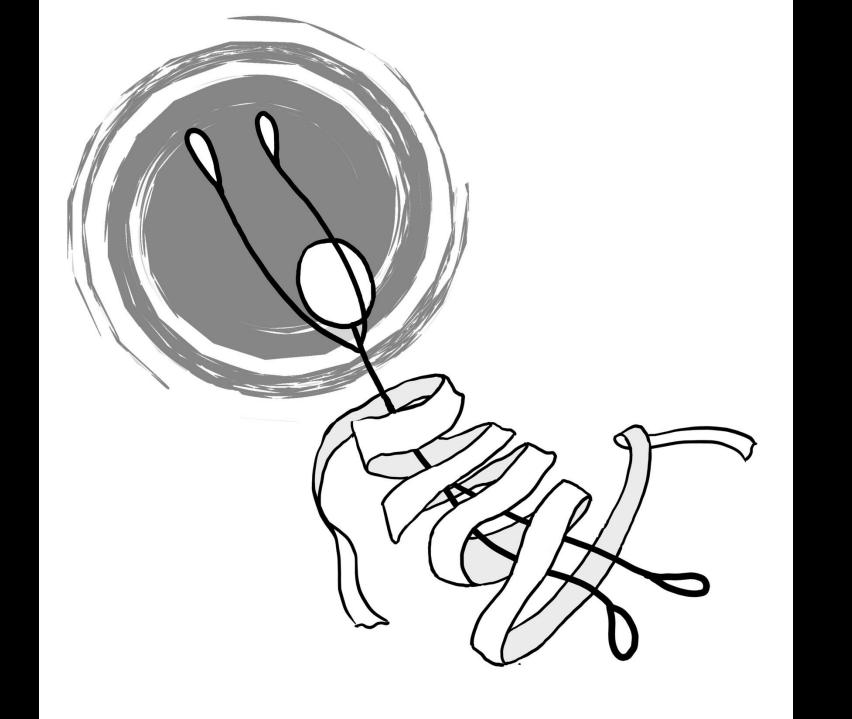


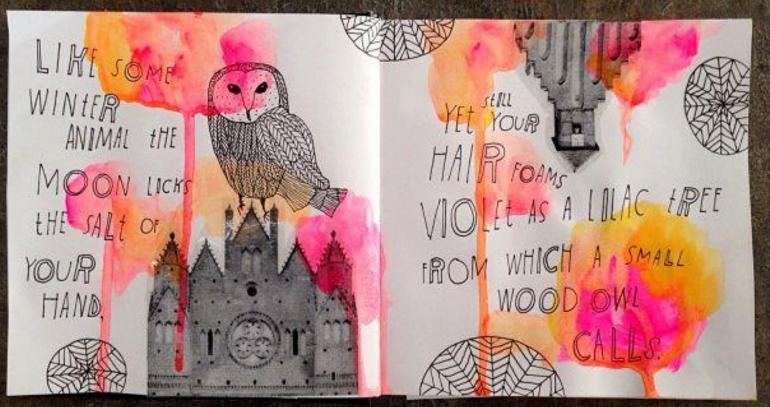








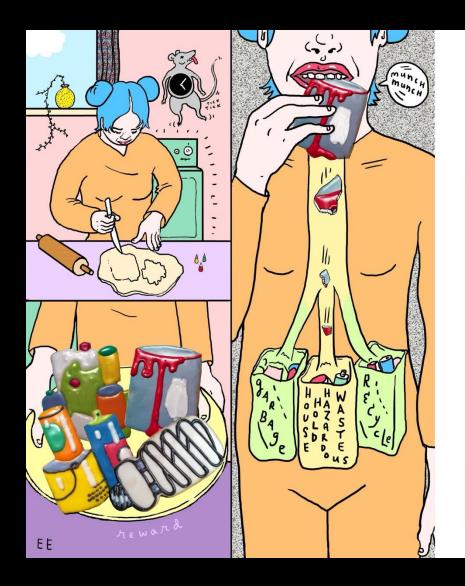




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Shortbread cookies

2 cups all purpose flour 2 sticks unsalted butter, room temperature 1/2 cup powdered sugar 3/4 teaspoon salt 1 teaspoon Vanilla extract

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place sugar, butter and vanilla extract in bowl. Beat on medium high until smooth. Pour 1/3 of sifted flour and salt mixture at a time into wet ingredients. Beat on medium after each addition. Mix until all is blended and small balls of dough form. Gently form dough into a ball with your hands. Wrap in plastic and keep in fridge until ready to use. Keep unused por-tions chilled while making cookies, too. Roll out dough, cut shapes, place onto parchment paper covered cookie sheet. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Watch to make sure they don't overbake -- they will be pale brown when done. Let cool completely before

decorating.

Icing

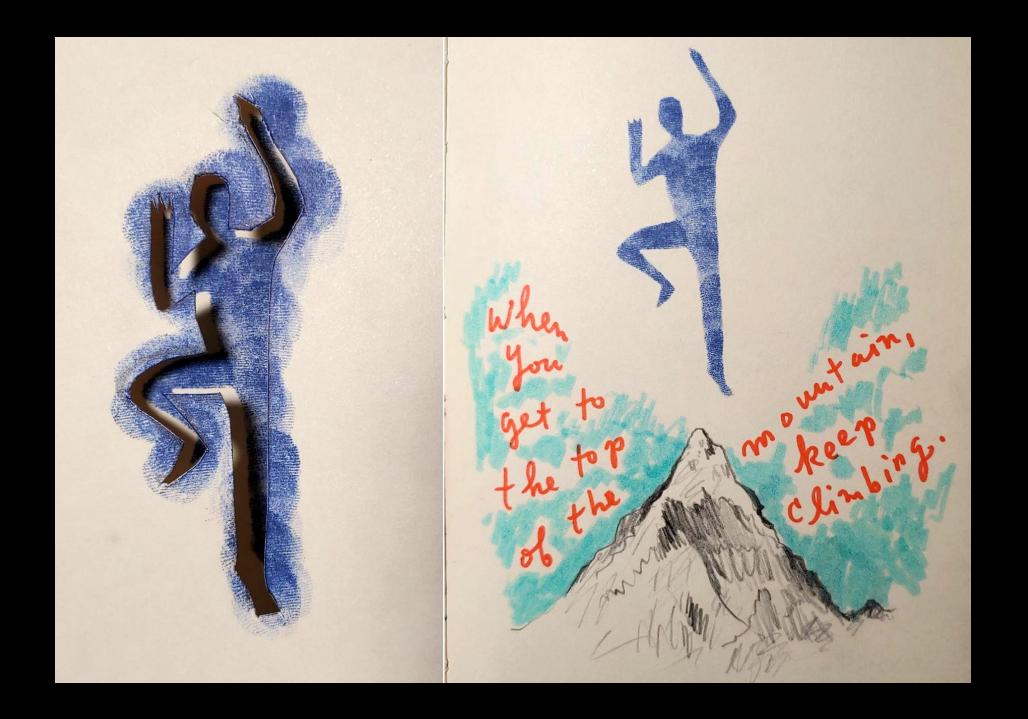
3 cups powdered sugar 1 tablespoon dried egg whites 1/4 cup water food coloring

> Trace these shapes and cut them out of dough to make the cookies!



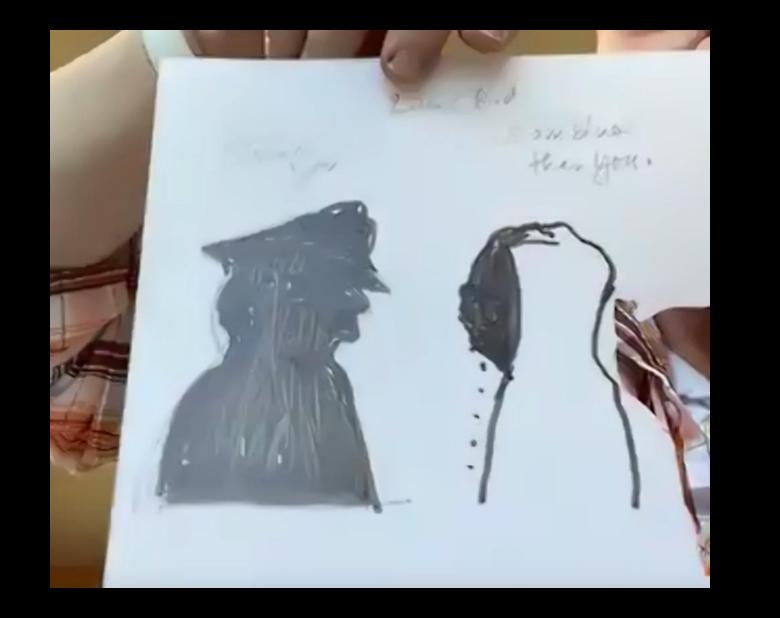




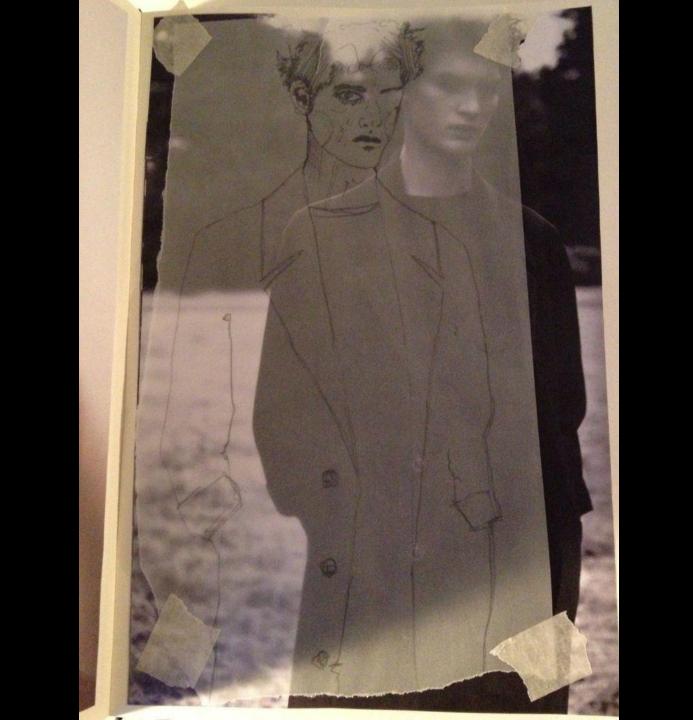


















































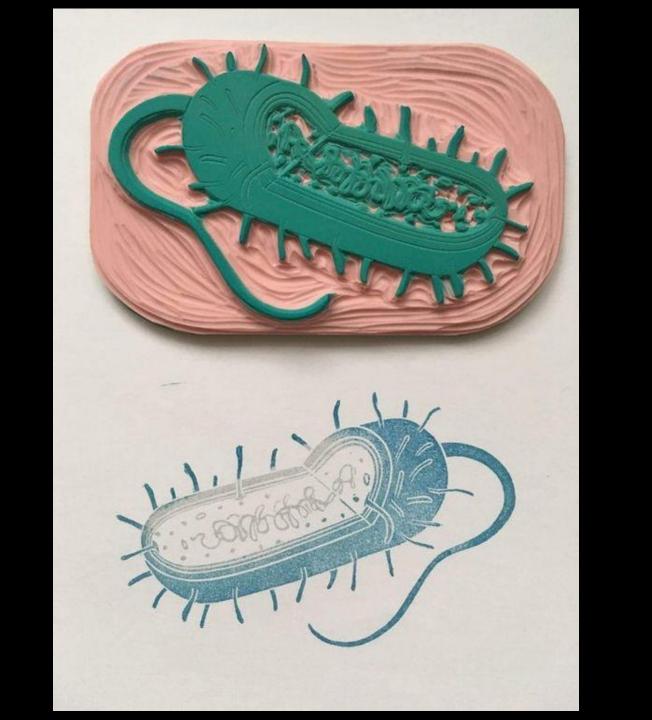






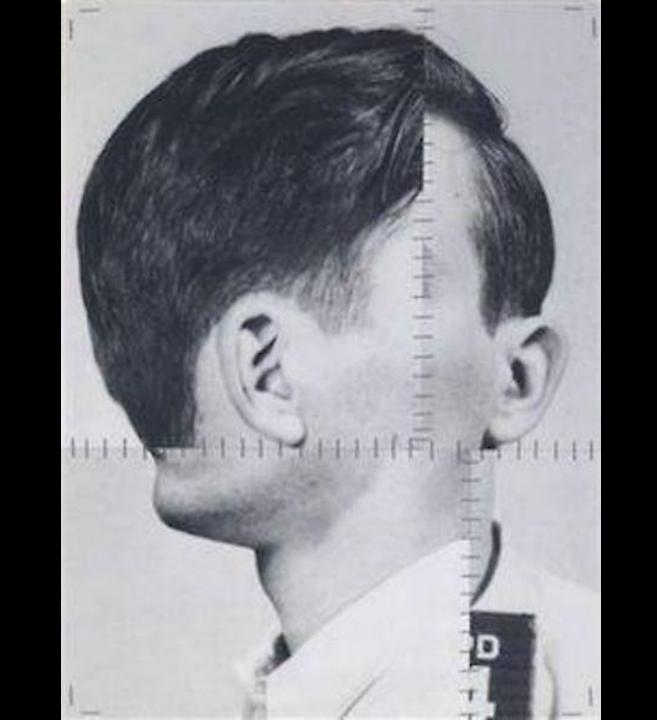










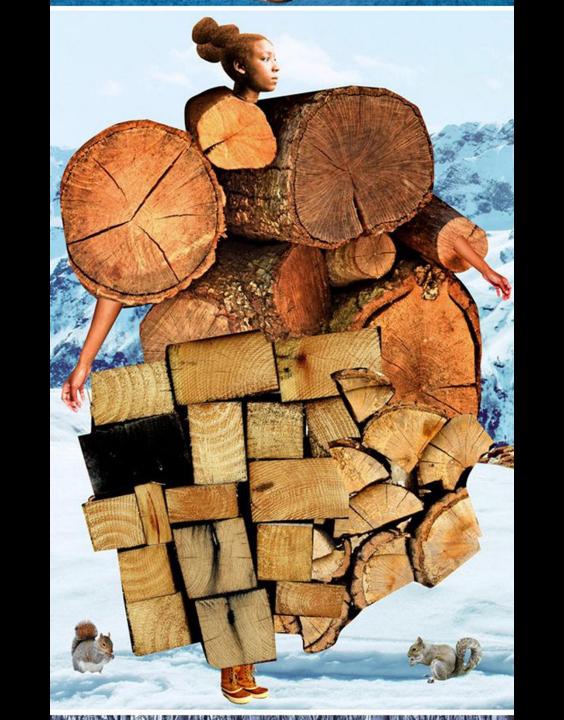






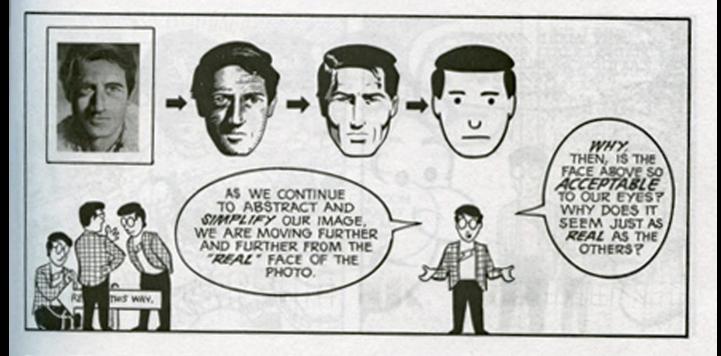


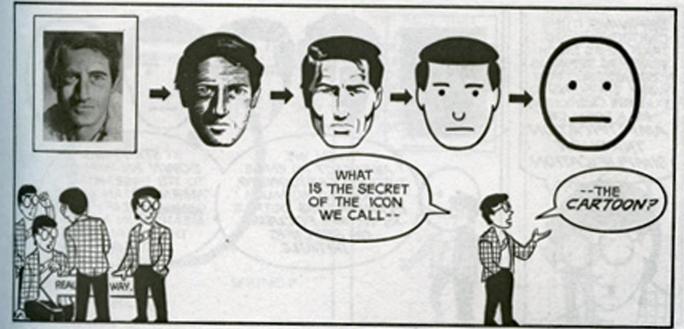


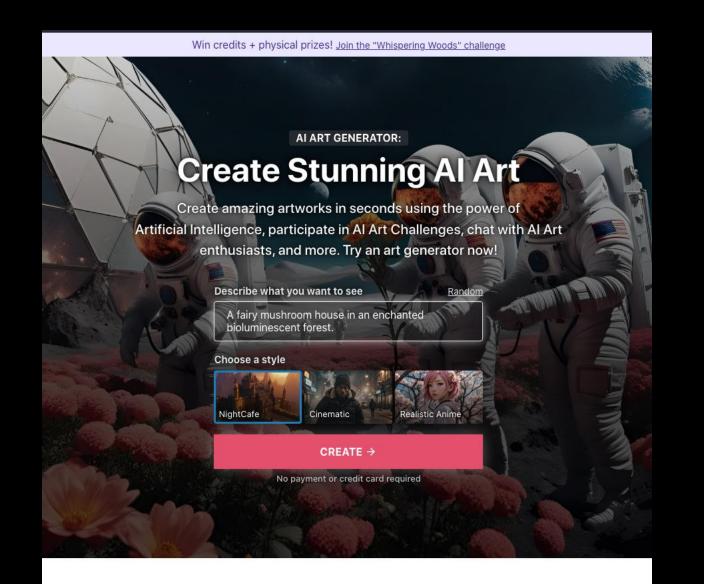












Tonight's Big Points:

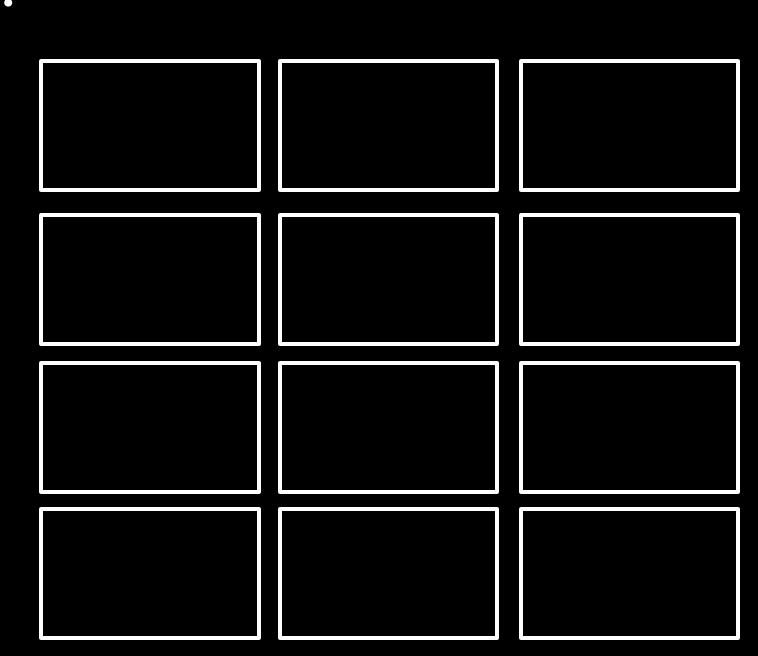
- Who is your audience? (Never everyone)
- Will they care to listen?
- What are you persuading them to do?

What are the elements?

The Character(s)	+	The World the Story Takes Place In	+	The Challenges they Encounter

What Are The Beats?

- Hook
- Inciting incident
- First plot point
- Pinch
- Midpoint
- Pinch 2
- Second plot point
- Third plot point
- Climax
- Resolution



Tip of the Week: How to find stories

