**IB Film: 3.02 Interactive Script—Story Structure**

What may be interesting is to build on the Syd Field Three Act Structure that was touched upon in the previous week. If there was a visual representation of:

* The Setup
* The Confrontation
* The Resolution

Where we could also provide Campbell’s HJ breakdown. When students are looking/reading at the HJ element, a marker could move and indicate where that moment most likely would happen in the Three Act Structure. Here is a graphic of that, which could be at the bottom of the interactive (all that would be needed would be the marker that indicates where in the HJ it takes place):



**The Script: The Hero’s Journey**

**The Ordinary World:**

This is where the world of the story and the hero is introduced. It shows a day in the life of the protagonist where we learn about the given circumstances of the story (who, what, where, when).

***Marker indicates the start of Act I***

In *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* Harry lives his mundane life sleeping under the stairs of his house with his muggle family. Harry even says “I’ll be in my bedroom, making no noise and pretending that I don’t exist.”

**The Call to Adventure:**

Something happens to disrupt the hero’s world. This could be an external force (environmental or character) or an internal conflict. The hero is confronted with the idea that the **ordinary world** may be forced to change. Often times the **call to adventure** occurs near the midpoint of Act I.

***Marker indicates middle of Act I around the Inciting Incident***

In *Harry Potter*, Harry is told that he is a wizard by Hagrid and that magic exists.

**The Refusal of the Call:**

Upon hearing the call to adventure, the hero is usually reluctant to take on the challenge attempting to maintain the ordinary and uncomplicated life that s/he is used to. This may involve running away or refusing to confront the challenge that has been presented.

***Marker indicates the middle of Act I, immediately following the Call to Adventure***

In *Harry Potter*, Harry’s uncles **refuse the call to adventure** by not allowing him to open the letters sent to him from Hogwarts.

**The Meeting with the Mentor:**

As mentioned in Syd Field’s Three Act Structure, often times the hero is unable to overcome the initial conflict due to the lack of ability or strength. As a result, the hero needs to learn and grow which is where The Meeting with the Mentor comes into play. The hero will need guidance to grow during the course of the story if s/he is going to be successful in overcoming the conflict.

***Marker indicates between the Inciting Incident and Plot Point One***

The mentor teaches the audience about the tests the hero must face. The character of the mentor not only aids and assists the main characters to overcome their challenges, but also teaches the audience what the requirements of the task are in a way that is much more engaging than straight-forward exposition

In *Harry Potter*, Hagrid is introduced and becomes Harry’s **mentor**. He offers both knowledge and emotional support to Harry. He also acts as a guide for helping Harry **cross the threshold** into the magic.

**Crossing the Threshold (Accepting the Call):**

Whether the hero has found a mentor or not, ultimately s/he must commit to leaving the **ordinary world** and accepting the **call to adventure**.

Accepting the call to adventure and crossing the threshold are very similar to events that are represented by Plot Point One in Syd Field’s Three Act Structure. This almost always represents the end of Act I. The hero has made the decision to confront the challenge.

***Marker indicates right after Plot Point One***

In *Harry Potter*, Harry leaves for Hogwarts and enters Diagon Alley. This is where he first sees what the wizard world looks like and commits to his journey of learning the art of wizardry.

**Tests, Allies and Enemies:**

The hero overcomes a series of challenges and discovers who will help and who will block his/her progress to the goal. Since the hero is usually inexperienced or inadequate, s/he will need the help of the **mentor** and can be expected to fail many of the tests.

***Marker indicates the start of Act II***

In *Harry Potter*, Harry encounters various tests that challenge his wits and wizardry skills. He teams up with Ron, Harry’s first friend to help Hermione when she is cornered by the troll. This test brings the three friends together, improves their skills and builds their courage.

**The Approach to the In-Most Cave:**

The hero and his or her newfound friend and allies prepare for the major challenge that confronts them.

As Act II progresses, the tests and challenges become more and more difficult, with a greater possibility of loss. This is often described as the rising action of the story’s plot.

***Marker moves between the starting point and the midpoint of Act II***

In *Harry Potter*, the team are able to pass Fluffy, the three-headed dog, and enter the underground cave-like structure where they must pass three tests. These tests rely on each of the team’s skills, but due to Ron’s injury, Harry is left to confront the major **ordeal** on his own.

**The Ordeal:**

As the story approaches the half-way mark, the hero enters a place where s/he confronts death or greatest fear. This is very similar to Syd Field’s description of the midpoint where the hero seems the farthest from the goal.

***Marker moves to Midoint within Act II***

In *Harry Potter*, the ordeal is when Harry confronts Professor Quirrell, and discovers that he is allied with Voldemort. Harry is forced to look into the Mirror of Erised. Harry is able to gain possession of the Sorcerer’s Stone. Voldemort tempts Harry to join him in exchange for the stone. Harry refuses and has to fight Quirrell. Voldemort leaves Harry and he can now see that Voldemort is a much more powerful and experienced wizard than himself.

**The Reward:**

The hero takes possession of the treasure won by facing death. There may be celebration, but there is also danger of losing the treasure again.

***Marker moves between Midpoint and Plot Point Two***

In *Harry Potter*, Harry’s reward after surviving the **ordeal** is having defeated the enemy and not allowing Voldemort to gain possession of the Sorcerer’s Stone.

**The Road Back:**

About three-fourths of the way through the story, the hero is driven to complete the adventure, leaving the “special world” to be sure the treasure is brought home. Often a chase scene signals the urgency and danger of the mission.

This moment in the Hero’s Journey shares many of the same qualities of the reversal that was identified in the Three Act Structure’s Plot Point Two.

***Marker moves to Plot Point Two***

In *Harry Potter*, Harry leaves Hogwarts and returns home because it is the end of the school year. He is returning, but he has a better perspective of the world around him and his place within it.

**The Resurrection:**

At the climax, the hero is severely tested once more on the threshold of home. S/he is purified by a last sacrifice, another moment of death and rebirth, but on a higher and more complete level. By the hero’s actions, the polarities that were in conflict at the beginning are finally resolved.

***Marker moves to Act III, the climax***

In *Harry Potter*, Harry’s **resurrection** is when he wakes up at the hospital after barely surviving the **ordeal**. He is now a stronger person and better wizard. Dumbledore tells Harry that Voldemort will return, which helps Harry recognize that the danger is still present and that he has to grow in order to defeat the evil forces that threaten Harry’s world.

**Return with the Elixir:**

The hero returns home or continues the journey, bearing some element of the treasure that has the power to transform the world as the hero has been transformed.

***Marker moves to the end of Act III***

In *Harry Potter*, Harry has returned to the **ordinary world** with several rewards. He has gained knowledge and skill surrounding wizardry, he calls Hogwarts “home,” he has gained two close friends in Ron and Hermione, and he has become a stronger person and more mature in his evolution. He is now safe from Voldemort…at least for now!

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