



Stories & Storytelling

Name:

Scripture of the Unit:

That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.

And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:1-9 (NASB)

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Willing Suspension of Disbelief

This is when readers, art viewers, or audience members _____ in order to experience the artistic works without the nagging distraction of those disbeliefs.

In your own words, what is "poetic faith" and "willing suspension of disbelief"?

Why are these important when watching a movie?

List some movies that you had to employ your willing suspension of disbelief while watching.

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List some movies that you thought were difficult for you to suspend your disbeliefs while watching and describe why it was difficult.

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Why do people tell stories?

1. Teach _____

- Name some movies that you think fit this reason:

■

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- Why do you think Jesus spoke in parables?

And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

‘You will keep on hearing, but will not understand;

You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;

For the heart of this people has become dull,

With their ears they scarcely hear,

And they have closed their eyes,

Otherwise they would see with their eyes,

Hear with their ears,

And understand with their heart and return,

And I would heal them.’

Matthew 13:10-15 (NASB)

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- Why did Jesus say that He spoke in parables?
- What did that mean for the people who heard Him then?

“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Matthew 13:16-23 (NASB)

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- After reading what Jesus said recorded above, what do you think this means for us?
us?

2. _____ the world around us

- Describe what you think happened in Maggie Oswald's remake of Fritz Heider & Maryanne Simmel's animation.

- How much of your interpretation of the film is based upon your experiences?

- How do you think this affects how we tell and receive stories?

3. Pass _____

- Name some movies that you think fit this reason for storytelling.
- Why do you think people use this form for this purpose?

4. To belong to a _____

- How do you think storytelling helps people feel like they belong?

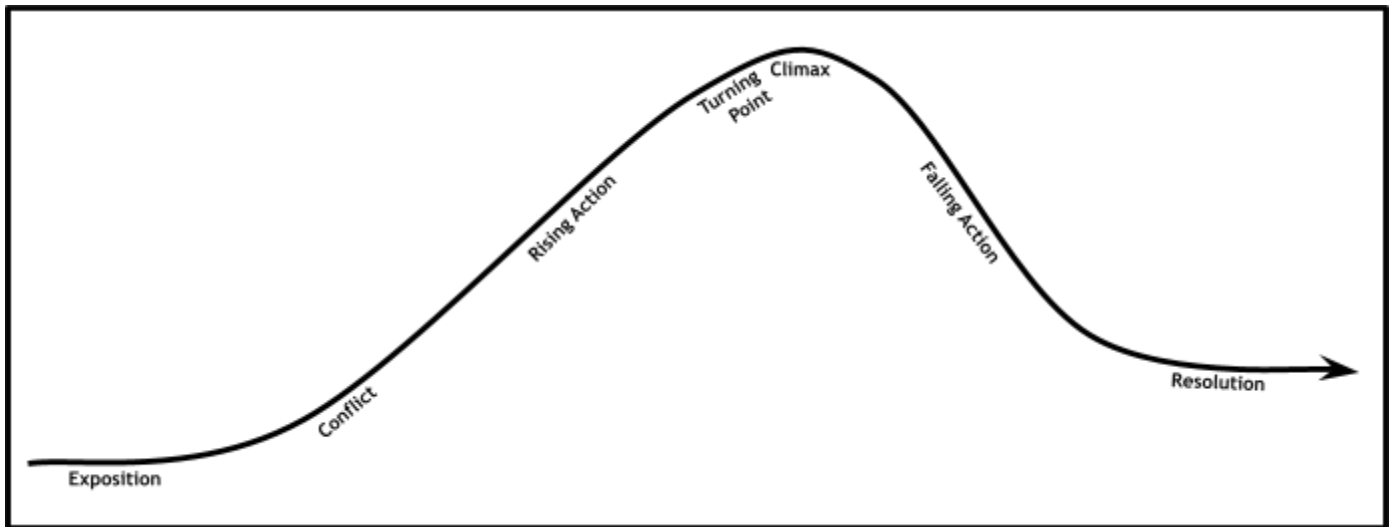
5. To give _____
 - How do you think stories give us hope?
 - What stories have given you hope?
6. To _____
 - What is your favorite movie and why is it your favorite?

What makes a good story?

- Aristotle's Six Elements of a Tragedy (Listed in his order of importance)
 1. _____ - What is it about and what is the order of events?
 2. _____ - Who is involved?
 3. _____ - What is the theme or message of the work?
 4. _____ - What do the characters say?
 5. _____ - How do the lyrical elements support the plot, character and though (theme)?
 6. _____ - What are the elements of the wonderful?
 - How do you think many of the movies made today order these six elements?
 - Why do you think this is true?
- Two Important Emotions
 - _____ - This is generated by seeing unmerited misfortune (i.e. bad things happening to a person who does not deserve it)
 - _____ - This is generated by seeing the unmerited misfortune of a person like ourselves.
 - Think of a time when you...
 - Felt pity for someone.
 - Saw or heard of something bad happening to someone else and were afraid that such a thing might happen to you.
 - Why do you think these are important emotions for a storyteller to evoke in a story?
 - Why do you think that it is important for us to relate to characters in stories?
 - How does this connect with the reasons that we tell stories?

- Two Important Components to a Well-Told Story
 - _____ - The audience wants to be held in suspense. Do not give things away too soon or easily. Plot twists are best when they come by surprise, yet follow cause and effect.
 - _____ - “The wonderful is pleasing, as may be inferred from the fact that every one tells a story with some addition of his knowing that his hearers like it.” ~Aristotle in *The Poetics*
 - Why do you think Surprise and The Element of the Wonderful are so important in stories?
- Plot Structure
 - _____ All events are moving toward a final event or action by a certain moment in time.
 - _____ Events are not ordered chronologically and my uses devices such as _____ or _____.
 - List movies that fit the different types of plot structures.
 - Deadline
 -
 -
 - Non-linear
 -
 -
- _____
 - Without _____ there is no story
 - Conflict is _____ in the world where the characters exist.
 - Conflict & What If... but...
 - Tell the story of a movie you have seen using the “What if... but...” format.
 - What if...
 - but...
 - The audience wants a _____.
 - _____ means _____. It is Latin in reference to a Greek theater term. It refers to a plot device in which a character is in a seemingly impossible predicament and is then rescued by a god. In the theater these gods would be lowered by a rope and stage machinery (thus “god from the machine”).

The Plot Curve & What Stories are About



_____ - Introduction of characters, milieu/setting, and genre

_____ - The event that propels the character into action or the event that acts upon the character (this is also known as the inciting incident)

_____ - The events/problems that further complicate the story and add suspense

_____ - The point at which the main character(s) respond(s) to the most important conflict

_____ - The moment of greatest conflict

_____ - The inevitable events that follow the climax

_____ - How does the story and conflict end?

Think about a time in your life that would make a good story. Plot it out on the plot curve above.

Characters, Who Stories are About, and Their Names

- _____ - Meaning & Significance
- _____ - Physical & More
- _____ - Emotional & Habitual
- _____ - What is the purpose of the character?
- _____ - What drives the character?
- _____ - What made the character?

If someone were writing a screenplay about you or if an actor were playing you in a film what background information would he or she need? On the next page fill out a character profile about yourself.

Character Profile

Picture:

Basic Description

- Character:
- Full Name:
- Description:

Physical Description

- Age:
- Hair:
- Eyes:
- Height:
- Weight:
- Distinguishing Features:

Character Traits

- What are the character's key traits?
 - Habits/Vices:
 - Personality:
 - Likes:
 - Dislikes:
- What is the Principal Function of this Character?

-Protagonist	-Antagonist
-Best Friend	-Love Interest
-Confidant	-Partner
-Catalyst	-Mentor
-Comic Relief	-Other:

Motivation

- What is the Goal of this Character?
- What is the Character's plan to achieve the goal?

Character Background

- Family Background:
- Education:
- Experiences & History: