

Plot Sequence Report for "Your Story"

This report shows how dramatic tension makes itself manifest in a series of discrepancies between plot and theme, act by act.

Information about the relationship between plot and theme comes in two forms in Dramatica. When you begin creating your Storyform, you are presented with a "perfect world" view of your story in which plot is completely aligned with theme. There is no discrepancy between the two, and therefore no dramatic tension. This balanced view is most easily seen in the Theme Browser, available through a icon toolbar or Project menu.

Once you arrive at a Storyform, however, you have input information about how that "perfect world" is twisted and warped by problems and conflicting perspectives. As a result, plot no longer matches theme, and the two are often quite out of step with one another.

As your story unfolds, it is the discrepancy between plot and theme that clues the audience in on the nature of the problem at the heart of your story and tells them much about the ways in which such a screwed up situation might be resolved.

Use this report as a guideline to the kinds of thematic considerations which should be addressed in your plot, act by act for each of the four throughlines. By developing this series of plot/theme discrepancies, the progress of your story will reflect the dramatic tension of the effort to unwind all the tentacles of the central problem.

THE OBJECTIVE STORY THROUGHLINE

The Objective Story Throughline deals with the kinds of activities the Objective characters will be engaged in, act by act. In "Your Story," act one deals primarily with Doing, act two with Obtaining,

act three with Understanding and act four concentrates on Learning. Each of these acts is made richer by the thematic topics that are explored within it.

In act one, "engaging in a physical activity" (Doing) is explored in terms of Value, Confidence, Worry, and Worth.

Act two concentrates on "achieving or possessing something" (Obtaining) and is explored in terms of Closure, Hope, Dream, and Denial.

Act three focuses on "appreciating the meaning of something" (Understanding) and is explored in terms of Investigation, Appraisal, Reappraisal, and Doubt.

And act four illustrates "gathering information or experience" (Learning) and is explored in terms of Truth, Evidence, Suspicion, and Falsehood.

THE SUBJECTIVE STORY THROUGHLINE

The Subjective Story Throughline deals with the interactions that occur between the main and obstacle characters, act by act. In "Your Story," act one deals primarily with Conceiving, act two with Conceptualizing, act three with Being and act four concentrates on Becoming. Each of these acts is made richer by the thematic topics that are explored within it.

In act one, "coming up with an idea" (Conceiving) is explored in terms of State of Being, Situation, Circumstances, and Sense of Self.

Act two concentrates on "visualizing how an existing idea might be implemented" (Conceptualizing) and is explored in terms of

Rationalization, Commitment, Responsibility, and Obligation.

Act three focuses on "temporarily adopting a lifestyle" (Being) and is explored in terms of Knowledge, Ability, Desire, and Thought.

And act four illustrates "transforming one's nature" (Becoming) and is explored in terms of Permission, Need, Expediency, and Deficiency.

THE MAIN CHARACTER THROUGHLINE

The Main Character Throughline deals with the areas that most concern the main character, act by act. In "Your Story," act one deals primarily with The Future, act two with The Present, act three with The Past and act four concentrates on Progress. Each of these acts is made richer by the thematic topics that are explored within it.

In act one, "what will happen or what will be" (The Future) is explored in terms of Experience, Skill, Enlightenment, and Wisdom.

Act two concentrates on "the current situation and circumstances" (The Present) and is explored in terms of Prerequisites, Strategy, Analysis, and Preconditions.

Act three focuses on "what has already happened" (The Past) and is explored in terms of Instinct, Senses, Interpretation, and Conditioning.

And act four illustrates "the way things are going" (Progress) and is explored in terms of Approach, Self Interest, Morality, and Attitude.

THE OBSTACLE CHARACTER THROUGHLINE

The Obstacle Character Throughline deals with the areas most affected by the obstacle character, act by act. In "Your Story," act one deals primarily with The Conscious, act two with Memory, act three with The Preconscious and act four concentrates on The Subconscious. Each of these acts is made richer by the thematic topics that are explored within it.

In act one, "present considerations" (The Conscious) is explored in terms of Fate, Prediction, Interdiction, and Destiny.

Act two concentrates on "recollections" (Memory) and is explored in terms of Fact, Security, Threat, and Fantasy.

Act three focuses on "innate responses" (The Preconscious) and is explored in terms of Openness, Delay, Choice, and Preconception.

And act four illustrates "basic drives and desires" (The Subconscious) and is explored in terms of Work, Attraction, Repulsion, and Attempt.

VOCABULARY:

Ability: being suited to handle a task; the innate capacity to do or be

Analysis: evaluation of the situation and/or circumstances

Appraisal: a limited initial assessment

Approach: one's methodology of doing or being

Attempt: applying oneself to something not known to be within one's ability

Attitude: demeanor or outlook

Attraction: drawing or being drawn to something

Becoming: transforming one's nature

Being: temporarily adopting a lifestyle

Choice: making a decision

Circumstances: an emotional assessment of one's environment

Closure: bringing something to an end or to completion

Commitment: a decision to stick with something regardless of the consequences

Conceiving: coming up with an idea

Conceptualizing: visualizing how an existing idea might be implemented

Conditioning: responses based on experience or training

Confidence: belief in the accuracy of expectations

Deficiency: appraisal of what is lacking

Delay: putting off until later

Denial: the refusal to admit to oneself or others that a previously held view is no longer true

Desire: the motivation toward something better

Destiny: the future path an individual must take

Doing: engaging in a physical activity

Doubt: questioning validity without investigating to be sure

Dream: a desired future that does not fall within reasonable expectations

Enlightenment: an understanding that transcends knowledge

Evidence: information supporting a belief

Expediency: most efficient course considering repercussions

Experience: the gaining of familiarity

Fact: belief in something real

Falsehood: that which has been shown to be erroneous

Fantasy: belief in something unreal

Fate: a future situation that will befall an individual

Hope: a desired future that falls within reasonable expectations

Instinct: intrinsic unconditioned responses

Interdiction: an effort to change a predetermined course

Interpretation: determination of possible meaning

Investigation: gathering evidence to resolve questions of validity

Knowledge: that which one holds to be true

Learning: gathering information or experience

Memory: recollections

Morality: doing or being based on what is best for others

Need: that which is required

Obligation: accepting a task or situation in exchange for someone's earlier or potential favors

Obtaining: achieving or possessing something

Openness: willingness to reevaluate

Permission: what is allowed

Preconception: adhering to a previously held view; unwillingness to reevaluate

Preconditions: restrictions imposed on an effort

Prediction: a predetermination of a future state of affairs

Prerequisites: the essential preliminaries that must be met

Progress: the way things are going

Rationalization: an alternative explanation used to mask the real reason

Reappraisal: reconsideration of a previous determination

Repulsion: pushing or being pushed away from

Responsibility: taking, accepting, or assuming control to the exclusion of others

Security: an evaluation of one's defenses and protections

Self Interest: doing or being based on what is best for oneself

Sense of Self: one's perception of oneself

Senses: sensory observations

Situation: a logistic assessment of one's environment

Skill: aptitude or innate ability

State of Being: one's true nature

Strategy: a plan to achieve one's purpose or a plan of response

Suspicion: questioning or forming a belief based on new evidence

The Conscious: present considerations

The Future: what will happen or what will be

Your Story

Vocabulary List

The Past: what has already happened

The Preconscious: innate responses

The Present: the current situation and circumstances

The Subconscious: basic drives and desires

Thought: the process of consideration

Threat: an evaluation of potential negative forces

Truth: that which is actually correct

Understanding: appreciating the meaning of something

Value: the objective usefulness of something in general

Wisdom: understanding how to apply Knowledge

Work: applying oneself to something known to be within one's ability

Worry: concern for the future

Worth: a rating of usefulness or desirability to oneself personally