

# The Hollywood Formula

## 1. Introduce the Three Main characters.

When the characters are introduced and show what they want.

### Characters to be introduced:

#### ***The Protagonist:***

- The protagonist has a concrete goal/objective. The objective could be a person (e.g., the man/woman the protagonist wants to marry), it could be an object (the grail, a championship, etc.). Two things need to be the case: (a) The objective must be easily understood. (b) The objective must be *visual*.
- The first person to make a decision in the story. Note that this decision isn't perfect but it does characterize the protagonist. It will be a 'yes or no' decision. Also, the decision should result in the character doing something that goes against what readers know about the nature of the protagonist. For example, a shy girl stands up to a bully to save the boy she likes. The idea is to (a) show what the protagonist wants as well as (b) how badly she wants it.
- The protagonist's motivation is either (a) redemption or (b) growth.

#### ***The Antagonist:***

- The antagonist places obstacles in the protagonist's way. If the antagonist achieves his/her goal then the protagonist cannot and *vice versa*.
- "In order to identify the antagonist, you must first identify the Protagonist, and the Protagonist's goal/objective. Only then can you ask why the protagonist can't get his or her goal/objective. The answer to that question is: the antagonist."

#### ***The Relationship Character:***

- The relationship character accompanies the protagonist on his/her journey.
- The relationship character has wisdom to communicate to the protagonist. They have been there, done that. This character generally has experience the protagonist lacks.
- The relationship character is the person TO WHOM or FROM WHOM the theme of the show is articulated. Either the relationship character will state it themselves or a secondary character will state it in conversation with the relationship character.

## **2. Fateful Decision**

The protagonist must make a choice. This is where the protagonist receives the Call to Adventure/Action.

## **3. Protagonist Asks Questions**

## **4. Protagonist Answers Questions**

## **5. Protagonist's Lowest Point**

The protagonist has gone as far away from his/her goal as possible.

## **6. The journey from the low point to the end.**

At or around the Climax three things must happen:

- The protagonist achieves the goal.
- The protagonist defeats the antagonist.
- The protagonist reconciles with the relationship character.

**Note: The closer these three events are to each other the more emotional impact the story will have.**

**If the protagonist fails at any of these three things, the story is considered a tragedy.**

## **7. The Three Main characters' conflicts are resolved**

## **8. New Normal**

**END OF STORY**