GCSE Narrative Knowledge orgainser

Narrative Key words...

Story
PLot
Narrative structure
Linear
Circular
Episodic
Narrative conventions
Time and space
Flashbacks
Flashforwards
Narrative voice
Character arc
Character development
Resolution

NARRATIVE CONVENTIONS

Time and space
Narrative structures
Narrative voice
Character functions
Themes explored through the narrative

TIME AND SPACE

Filmmaking could be seen as the representation of life but with boring parts eliminated.
Editing is used to make the film exciting, moving or surprising.
Techniques include:

Montage
Flashbacks
Flash forwards
Voice over by a narrator

NARRATIVE VOICE

Whose story is told by the film?
Whose perspective is the story told from?
The answers to these questions will influence how we feel about the story and the characters.

As an audience are we seeing things from one point of view or many?

PLOT

Plot describes a set of events as they relate to each other.
The term is concerned with how to sequence and select the events of a story as a structure for its telling and how that telling can find maximum effect.

STORY

Story is a sequence of events; events in chronological order. This includes events we do not see, but are relevant to those that we do see.

NARRATIVE STRUCTURE:

↔ **Linear** narrative is a narrative told in chronological order.

Circular narrative starts at the end then goes back in time to return to this point later on.

Episodic narrative is A narrative that has clearly separated sections, often broken up by a title, date or by the cut back to the narrator.

CHARACTER FUNCTIONS

A **character arc** is the transformation or inner journey of a character over the course of a story. If a story has a character arc, the character begins as one sort of person and gradually transforms into a different sort of person in response to changing developments in the story.

How are the characters portrayed?
What is the character's narrative function?
How are heros and villains created?
Do any of the characters going on an emotional journey during the film?
What is the resolution for those characters?

Narrative theories

Propp's character theory



The hero The central protagonist of the narrative who drives it forward.



The villain Seeks riches, glory and or power, and seeks to stop the hero succeeding in the quest or mission.



The (magical) helper Accompanies the hero for some or most of the quest and can sometimes help.



The princess/heroine Acts as a reward for the hero succeeding in the quest.



The dispatcher Sends the hero on his/her quest.



The donor/mentor Gives the hero important information or equipment to help him/her in the quest



False hero Tries to prevent the hero completing at least part of the quest.

Theory of Equilibrium

Equilibrium: The setting is established, key characters are introduced and the storyline is set up.

Disruption: Oppositional characters appear and the story takes a particular direction.

Recognition of disruption: The lives of the characters and events are interwoven. Tension builds throughout this section, which is often the longest.

Attempt to repair disruption: The highest point of tension after which there is a change of dynamic.

Reinstatement of equilibrium: Matters are sorted out, problems are solved and questions answered.