

## THE BASICS OF DRAMA

All dramatic stories have to have conflict!!!

### 4 CONFLICTS

**Man vs. Self** - Caveman can't get a woman. He questions himself.

**Man vs. Man** - Another caveman wants the same woman he wants. They fight.

**Man vs. Society** - Caveman doesn't fit in because he's constantly fighting and doesn't have a woman. - He gets kicked out of the cave and the clan.

**Man vs. Nature** - Caveman has to find a cave and survive the elements and find peace with the animals or die.

THERE MUST BE A DEADLINE. THE TIGHTER THE DEADLINE THE HIGHER THE STAKES AND THE BETTER THE STORY.

**All stories must answer these four questions.**

Who is the protagonist? (Who are we cheering for?)

What do they want? (It must be something worth getting.)

What gets in the way? (What is the conflict?)

What is at stake? (What happens if they don't get it?)

**No. 1 Rule: YOUR PROTAGONIST MUST BE SYMPATHETIC & MUST EXERCISE FREE WILL!**

### BASICS OF STRUCTURE

All western dramatic structures are based on a man's orgasm...

Rising action...Climax... Resolution. THINK LINEAR...

All non-western dramatic structures are inspired by a woman's orgasm...  
Multi-climatic, spiraling, you end up where you began. THINK CIRCULAR

All characters start being unhappy with their emotional or physical circumstances, but internally they all want to go on an adventure... The spirit orchestrates the journey... They are then thrown into another world where they have to learn new skills, make new friends, try new things, and go outside of the box of their identity. Once they are beginning to like it, they are thrown back to their old world, and then they must choose their old self or their new self.

**CLIMAX** - the highest point of tension... Only when a character is taken to extremes and they must make a choice does a character really know who she/he is! **EVERY CHOICE IS BETWEEN FEAR AND LOVE. DEATH IS THE BASIS OF ALL FEAR.**

All characters that start out arrogant are humbled and they have to reexamine who they are to discover their authentic self.

All characters that start out not believing in themselves are given an opportunity to see themselves as more than what they thought they were and they have to reexamine who they are to discover their authentic self.

All drama is a recreation of the past until a protagonist realizes they are constantly stuck in the past recreating the trauma! When they can be with the trauma in the present and realize that it is not real they can make a choice to free themselves from it.

**SHORT FILMS** are about a protagonist changing their attitude about something. Never try to tell a full length three act story in a short film... Focus on only one or two plots - max... One is best....

### **EXAMPLES:**

A racist person meets someone they thought they hated only to discover that they may not be right and are willing to consider another point of view.

A woman hates hanging out with her mother and discovers her mother is actually pretty neat and gives her a second chance.