

Storytelling: Dramatic Structure & Basic Elements

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Beat

- smallest unit of action
- small change

Scene

- built by beats (change in actions)
- brings about bigger change than beats
- at end of scene brings out bigger change than beats

Acts

- built by scenes
- brings about bigger change than scenes
- big cliffhangers to keep the audience interested

Film - Full Feature

- 3 acts (traditionally)
 - 1st act - Set up
 - 2nd act - Quest/Confrontation
 - 3rd act - Resolution
- 40 to 60 scenes
- 90 to 120 pages

Television - Half Hour Film Scripts

- Structure
 - 3 acts
- Examples
 - Weeds
 - Entourage

Television - Sitcom(half hour)

- Structure
 - Teaser (grabs attention of audience to keep them tuned into episode)
 - 2 (traditionally)
 - 28 scenes
 - approximately 7 scenes per act
 - Tag
- 22 - 23 pages
- Examples
 - Major Dad
 - Hanna Montana

Television - 1 hour drama

- Structure
 - Teaser
 - 4 acts (traditionally), 5 acts new structure
 - Tag/ "Next on"
- Examples
 - 4 acts
 - Dawson's Creek
 - 5 acts
 - Lost
- 50 to over 100 pages (Gilmore Girls)