

ANG-5104-1. WRITING SKILLS I

MOVIE SYNOPSIS (LS)



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SCENARIO

You may ask, what is the purpose of a movie synopsis? We all enjoy watching a good movie, don't we? Reading a synopsis ahead to know whether the film is interesting or not can be useful to get a clue before paying to watch it.

In this learning situation, you will:

- ✧ Review the components of a story plot.
- ✧ Read examples of logline.
- ✧ Read a short story.
- ✧ Choose and watch a movie.
- ✧ Summarize a short story and a movie.
- ✧ Share opinion and analysis.

Plot definition: Plot is the way an author develops a series of events in a text.



TASK 1 Story Plots and a Loglines

Story plot

A story plot is the storyline of a text.

Typically, an author develops a plot in such a way to pique the reader's interest. That said, the storyline is not usually resolved until the near end of the text.

<https://writingexplained.org/grammar-dictionary/plot>

PLOT = Storyline of a text

Exposition/Introduction : Story is introduced, characters, setting and main conflict

Example: Characters: Little Red Riding Hood, her mother, her grandmother.

Setting: One morning

Story: The Little red Riding Hood wants to go to visit her grandmother ...

Rising Action: Develops conflict within the character or between one character or more. Suspense occurs.

Example: Little Red Riding Hood runs into the Big Bad Wolf who asks her questions to know her plans.

Climax: Conflict is at its peak. More exciting part of the story. It seems that there is no solution to the conflict. Turning point of the story.

Example: The Big Bad Wolf arrives at Grandma's house first, eats her and disguises itself as Grandma. The Little Red Riding Hood is deceived and alone with the wolf. A lumberjack hears screams from the house.

Falling Action: It occurs after the climax. Will the problem be solved or not?

Example: Will the Little Red Riding Hood be saved by the lumberjack in time?

Resolution/Conclusion to the plot. The conflict is resolved.

Example: The lumberjack kills the wolf before he eats the Little Red Riding Hood, rips its stomach open and saves the grandmother.

LOGLINE

A logline is a brief summary of the story and is meant to grab the attention of your audience.

- ✦ Watch the following video about Script Tip: How to Write a Logline on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4a9JRjP86Q>
- ✦ Fill in the following chart to summarize the information on “How to Write a Logline”.

Concise

Logline

20-30 words

Character	
Want	
Obstacle	



Practice: In this exercise, the logline is given to you.

Match the logline to the title of the movies:

LOGLINE		Title of the movies
<p>Logline #1 - The extraordinary story of a thoroughbred racehorse - from his humble beginnings as an under-fed workhorse to his unlikely rise and triumphant victory over the Triple Crown winner, War Admiral.</p> <p>Logline #2 - A 17th Century tale of adventure on the Caribbean Sea where the roguish yet charming Captain Jack Sparrow joins forces with a young blacksmith in a gallant attempt to rescue the Governor of England's daughter and reclaim his ship.</p> <p>Logline #3 - After segueing from a life of espionage to raising a family, Gregorio and Ingrid Cortez are called back into action. But when they are kidnapped by their evil nemesis, there are only two people in the world who can rescue them... their kids!</p> <p>Logline #4 - Toula's family has exactly three traditional values - "Marry a Greek boy, have Greek babies, and feed everyone." When she falls in love with a sweet, but WASPy guy, Toula struggles to get her family to accept her fiancée, while she comes to terms with her own heritage.</p> <p>Logline #5 - A young man and woman from different social classes fall in love aboard an ill-fated voyage at sea.</p>	1	<p>A. My Big, Fat, Greek Wedding</p> <p>B Spy Kids</p> <p>C. Titanic</p> <p>D. Seabiscuit</p> <p>E. Pirates of the Caribbean</p>
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	

Answers:

1-D, 2-E, 3-B, 4-A, 5-C

TASK 2 Write the Logline for a Story



1. Read the following short story

The Dentist Will See You Now

Making an appointment to see the dentist is usually one of the smartest decisions a person could make for his or her health. However, for Marek, booking his dentist appointment ended up being one of the worst mistakes in his life. This was because of the fact that the dentist Marek chose to visit was his ex-girlfriend whom he had recently broken up with to be with another woman. This silly mistake resulted in Marek walking out of the dentist's office with all the 32 teeth missing.

"I didn't have any reason to doubt her," says Marek. "I mean I thought she was a professional". Quite on the contrary, his ex-girlfriend decided that this was the perfect chance to get her revenge for having been heart-broken. She gave him a heavy dose of anesthesia, pulled out all of his teeth, and bandaged his whole face up with gauze so that her work wouldn't be noticed until the bandages were all pulled off. "The bandages are to protect your gums," she told Marek, who then left the office, still heavily numbed by the effects of the anesthesia.

As the anesthesia wore off on his way home, he could tell something was terribly wrong because he couldn't feel any teeth. One can only imagine the panic he must have felt after uncovering his ex's work under all the gauze. After reporting the event to the police, his ex is now facing the possibility of three years in prison for a doctor's malpractice suit. On the bright side for her, she might be spending those three years behind bars pleased at knowing that her shocking stunt was very effective in terms of getting even with Marek. After seeing that he no longer had any teeth, his new girlfriend broke up with him.

Taken from: <https://www.eslfast.com/eslread/ss/s120.htm>



2. Use the chart to gather and organize the information.

Title of the story:	
Logline	
Synopsis/Story plot	
Exposition/Introduction	
Rising Action	
Climax	
Falling Action	
Resolution/Conclusion	



3. Logline and Synopsis

Logline: _____

Synopsis: _____

[illegible]



4. Opinion and analysis

a. Give your opinion:

What did you like/dislike in this story?

Would you have done a different ending if you were the author?

What type of readers will enjoy this story?

b. Write a short note to convince your reader to read the story or not.

TASK 3 Write the Logline for a Story

Scenario:

This coming weekend, I would like to watch a movie. As you are movie-goer and a film-lover, you decide to summarize one to help me decide.



1. Choose and watch a movie

- ✦ Choose a movie of your choice,
- Or
- ✦ Pick up one from this list:

Click on the following link:

Monsterbox (Voiceless) 7:40 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoLAoOkG5gY>

Gopher Broke 4:20 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iw-W1K68Sd4>

Catch It (Suricates, dodo) 5:24 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c88QE6yGhfM>

Bruce's Big Move (voiceless) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6IrGrPZOI4>

The Egyptian Pyramids 3:35 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6PbonHsqW0>

Home Sweet Home 9:55 <https://vimeo.com/113868429>

Happy Food 1:05 <https://vimeo.com/42411918>



2. Use the chart to gather and organize the information.

Title of the movie:	
Logline	
*Genre	
*Time	
*Director	
*Actors	
Synopsis/Story plot	
Exposition/Introduction	
Rising Action	
Climax	
Falling Action	
Resolution/Conclusion	

*only if you have the information



3. Logline and Synopsis

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery.



4. Opinion and analysis

a. Give your opinion:

What did you like/dislike in this story?

Would you have done a different ending if you were the author?

What type of readers will enjoy this story?

b. Write a short note to convince your reader to read the story or not.

Sources used for this L.S

<https://www.mensaforkids.org/teach/lesson-plans/book-review-guide/>

<https://www.nyfa.edu/student-resources/so-what-exactly-is-a-logline-and-why-do-i-need-one/>

<https://www.writersstore.com/writing-loglines-that-sell/>

<https://pixabay.com/fr/film-graphique-symbole-bande-de-867234/>