

FOR SALE STORY BEAMS

DADDY / DAUGHTER / MAN ?

COMING-OF AGE
INTO WOMANHOOD

MOTORCYCLES / WHISKEY IN TEA
GUNS

LESSON: STOP TROUBLE
BEFORE IT STOPS YOU

TIMELINE / LOCATION

ANSWERS

WHAT IS STORY STRUCTURE ?

A House Needs A Wooden Frame
To Guide Its Construction And Give It
The Stability To Build Out From.

A Story Structure's Framework
Organizes The Different Story Elements

So That Events / Plot Unfolds In A Coherent And Compelling Manner.



"Came into this world
Daddy's little girl....
Tough girl is what I had to be....
He told me when he's gone....
and men like me come around
Oh, my daddy said shoot
Oh, my daddy said shoot"



*BEYONCE as StoryTeller
from the song 'Daddy Lessons'
LEMONADE Album

BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE LESSON: Look up online 'Daddy Lessons lyrics by Beyonce', and after studying them look up and listen to the song. The first 48 seconds is instrumental. Loose New Orleans style jazz with background chanting establishes a sense of time and mood for Daddy's world that you won't get by just reading the lyrics.

STORY STRUCTURE CAN BE OUTLINED WITH DIFFERENT METHODS. MOST COMMON AND BASIC:
THREE ACT STORY STRUCTURE: 1) BEGINNING 2) MIDDLE 3) END

I'M OUTLINING STORY STRUCTURE FOR A FILM OR BOOK The song 'Daddy Lessons' is 4:48 minutes, whereas a film might be 90 minutes. A song can be like a film and have Three Act Structure -- or it can be structured like a painting or poem and be a vivid stroke of life communicating a mood, time, or relationship. If I were to fit 'Daddy Lessons' into Three Act Structure, it would go into ACT I (Beginning). It vividly communicates the story of how the Daughter was loved, dominated and indoctrinated by her Daddy. In essence her Backstory (a term explained on pg. 10). But the song doesn't present a current conflict that the Daughter needs to overcome. We don't know what the Daughter *herself* now believes. On the next pages I suggest multiple ways you could expand the story of 'Daddy Lessons' to fit Three Act Story Structure. **HAVE FUN CHOOSING HOW YOU WOULD DEVELOP THE STORY**

ACT I (BEGINNING): You're introduced to the main character or the '**PROTAGONIST**' and their '**ORDINARY WORLD**' – be it rich or poor, happy or depressed. Something happens to disrupt that world, often referred to as '**THE INCITING INCIDENT**' or '**THE CALL TO ADVENTURE**'. The disruption is caused by the '**ANTAGONIST**' or villain / rival / challenger -- which could be a person, a snowstorm or a dinosaur ! At first the protagonist doesn't want to deal with it. They don't think it's a big problem and hope it will go away. Or they don't think it's their problem, or that they're capable of dealing with it. But the problem gets worse, taking over their life. **THEY HAVE TO DO SOMETHING !**



ACT I, Part I: INTRO TO ORDINARY WORLD

The **DAUGHTER's** growing up started and ended with her **DADDY**. His world was her world. What is interesting are the missing pieces of Daddy's story. Though Daddy tells the Daughter to look after her mother and sister, we don't know how Daddy himself treated them. He tells his Daughter "when men like me come around" to shoot – but we never learn what Daddy has done that makes him such a bad man. Plus he doesn't tell her how to look for good in a man --- does he not want her to be in a relationship ? Was he trying to turn her into the son he never had ? Was he treating her more like 'Daddy's little woman', turning her into an adult before she got to be a child ?

ACT I, Part II: THE INCITING INCIDENT

Let's create an Inciting Incident in the form of a **MAN** who rocks the Daughter's world. Initially she:

- a. Doesn't find him attractive
- b. Finds him attractive -- so she hides from him
- c. Dislikes him but is unsettled by how he makes her feel more feminine
- d. Other (fill in your choice)

Then she ends up having to spend time with the Man because:

- a. They have to work together
- b. They are stranded somewhere together
- c. He continues to pursue her as she pushes him away
- d. Other (fill in your choice)

This leads the story into ACT II.

ACT II (MIDDLE): Now the protagonist is totally consumed with dealing with the problem, and goes through confusions and setbacks and efforts to get free or to get help. As well as times of giving up or giving in or denying reality. Eventually they either come up with a plan -- or something beyond awful happens and it pushes them to act --- leading to the climactic showdown and all hell / life breaks through !

ANSWERS

WHAT IS STORY STRUCTURE ? (cont.)

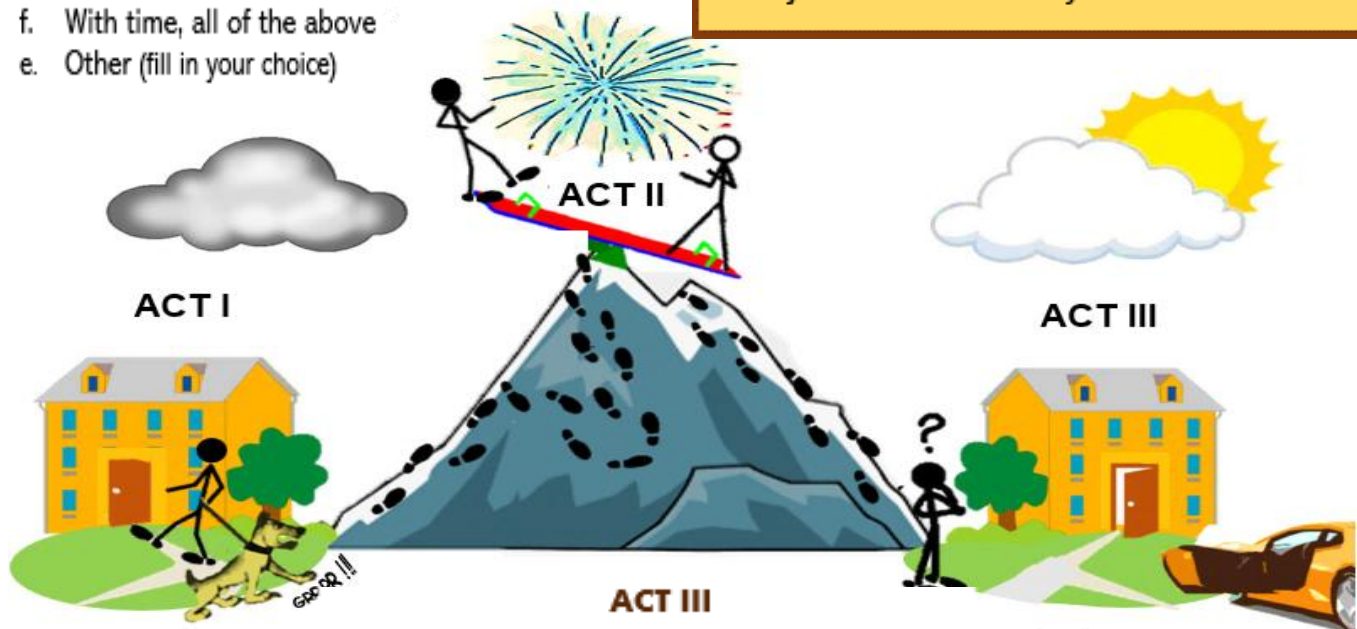
ACT II: The Daughter ends up in a relationship with the Man, but it's bumpy because of his behavior (and hers). Then it becomes unbearable !

HOW DOES THE DAUGHTER RESOLVE THE PROBLEM / CRISIS ?

- She gives a warning and reminds the Man continually of his sins; nags and demands
- She has an affair to make him jealous (or pretends to)
- Finds out she's pregnant and decides to keep trying to tame (or live with) who he is
- She leaves him
- She shoots him
- With time, all of the above
- Other (fill in your choice)



ACT III (END): Now the protagonist is beyond the climactic battle, for better or poorer. They and their ordinary world is no longer the same. How do they adjust ? Who do they become ?



WHAT IS THE DAUGHTER'S NEW ORDINARY WORLD LIKE ?

- She and the Man have weathered the storm and are working to know each other anew
- In prison after shooting the Man, trapped in a world more suited for Daddy, she thinks about her destroyed future
- She is raising her daughter alone, consciously teaching values different from what Daddy taught her
- She finds her voice and releases her feelings in a wildly successful breakthrough album
- Other (fill in your choice)

Once you as a StoryTeller have made all your decisions about how the Plot develops, you can decide to tell your audience the story in any order you want. You can open in the middle or end of the story — because you understand how all the pieces of the puzzle fit together !