

Screen writing Checklist

First read impression

This is part of a 4 page checklist with questions on Story, Character, and Theme. This and other tools are used for a systematic approach to editing and assessing scripts for screen writers and producers.

1. Is the story unique? Can you describe it in one sentence?
2. Is there one central, pro-active character who drives the story forward when seeking his/her goal?
3. Does the story begin with a character in crisis whose life is set in motion by a catalytic Inciting Incident?
4. Is the main character likable? Does he/she have contrasting characteristics?
5. Does the Inciting Incident raises a dramatic question whether he/she will survive the implications of that incident?
6. Does the main character have a formidable opponent or force that inhibits the main character's goal?
7. Is there another unpredictable incident at the end of 1st Act that changes the story direction and raises a second dramatic question?
8. Does the midpoint have another unpredictable plot twist that raises the stakes for the main character?
9. Does the main character appear to be losing before the midpoint? Does he or she appear to be winning sometime after the midpoint?
10. Does the Climax in Act 3 answer the dramatic question posed by the 1st Act Turning Point?
11. Does the Resolution in Act 3 answer the question posed by the 1st Act Inciting Incident?
12. Is the dialogue not stating the obvious but revealing subtext and character?
13. Is there a single, clear theme throughout the story?
14. Does main character change or the audience learn something as a result of this story?