

How to Tell a Story in Your Screenplay

5 Resources to Jumpstart Your Storytelling



Compiled by: Jenise Cook, M. A.

Ridge View Media - RidgeViewMedia.com

Copyright

© Copyright 2021—Present, Jenise Cook (dba Ridge View Media, RidgeViewMedia.com), All Right Reserved Worldwide.

Electronically printed in the United States of America.

All rights reserved. No part(s) of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—for example, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without prior written permission of the author.

License Notes

This eBook is licensed for your personal enjoyment only. This eBook may not be resold nor given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please choose one of these two options:

1. Direct them to www.ridgeviewmedia.com where they can download the eBook, or
2. Contact the author and request additional copies:
jenise@ridgeviewmedia.com

If you are reading this eBook and did not download it, or it was not downloaded for your use only, then the author respectfully requests that you please download, or request, your own copy. The author thanks you in advance, as many hours of the author's effort created this eBook.

Dedication

To all my clients and readers, who encourage me on this journey.

To my husband, Mark Crabbe, for his steadfast support.

How to Tell a Story in Your Screenplay

Screenwriting Story Structure

A creative person in my local community contacted me on Facebook regarding my editing and copy-editing services. Here's our brief correspondence:

Question:

Hi, Jenise. I'm looking for some sort of guidance on story writing so I can eventually shop my screenplays to filmmakers.

~ Pat M.

My Response:

Hey, Pat:

Thank you for contacting me! It's always fun to connect with locals who are creative.

Here's a freebie recommendation. For screenplays, I'm still learning this format myself as I'm focused on short stories and

novels, however, I do know of a proven resource for you to explore:

Save the Cat®

<https://savethecat.com/>

I suggest you explore every page of this website. It comes highly recommended by filmmakers for improving story telling in scripts/screenplays.

Let me know what you think of Save the Cat®. I've barely had time to explore so I'm eager to hear your opinion.

It was a brief but nice exchange between locals, as I'm frequently online with my writing community. I do look forward to learning from the Save the Cat® program to increase my skill set in screenwriting as a Developmental Editor so I can help you and others with your screenplays.

However, I'm constantly researching in my field. Read on to discover more resources to improve storytelling in your screenplay.

5 Resources to Jumpstart Your Storytelling

What Is Save the Cat®?

Save the Cat® - Website: <https://savethecat.com>

Why did I immediately recommend this website to Pat? Because the members of my online writing community, [Scribophile](#), said it's the most well known and comprehensive program for screenwriters who wish to:

- tell the best story they can in their screenplays, so they can
- shop them to filmmakers, and
- sell them to make a living from the craft they love.

The Language of Storytelling™ by Blake Snyder

The founder, the late Blake Snyder, had such a huge impact on fellow screenwriters that his colleagues saved his concepts, and his program actively continues to help writers today. This alone impressed me a great deal, and that's another reason why I mention Save the Cat® as the first resource in my screenwriters list.

Additional Screenwriting Resources

If I were working on a screenplay, I would start with the Save the Cat® program. Then, I would also consider a few additional resources.

No Film School

Website: <https://nofilmschool.com>

I first learned about No Film School in 2019, and I follow them on Twitter as a resource. Here's one of their articles related to storytelling in screenplays:

Avoid a Screenwriting Trap: Tell a Story Instead of Explaining Your Movie

<https://nofilmschool.com/2017/02/screenwriting-tell-a-story-instead-of-explaining-your-movie>

SoCreate: Screenwriting for Everyone

Website: <https://www.socreate.it>

I also follow SoCreate on Twitter, and I like their posted resources as well.

Here's their article on telling a story:

How to Use Pixar's Rules of Storytelling in Your Screenplay

<https://www.socreate.it/en/blogs/screenwriting/how-to-use-pixars-rules-of-storytelling-in-your-screenplay>

Stillmotion: Storytelling Blog

Blog site, category storytelling:

<https://www.stillmotionblog.com/category/storytelling/>

Stillmotion is a film-making consulting company with a wide variety of clients. Their belief in strong storytelling shows up in their blog category: "storytelling" (see link above). Scroll down the page; I think you'll find some tidbits to help you with your project.

Script Mag

Website: <https://scriptmag.com>

One more resource you can add to your tool kit is from Writer's Digest's Script Mag. I'm not familiar with Script Mag, but they have an interesting article you might want to read:

BREAKING & ENTERING: Keep It Simple Storytelling

<https://scriptmag.com/screenplays/breaking-keep-simple-storytelling>

As you search the World Wide Web using keywords "screenwriting" and "storytelling", I'm certain you'll find even more resources to help you jump-start your project.

Cover Image Credit:

[Movie Clapperboard by allser on Pixabay.com](#)

Hire Me

I provide proofreading and copy-editing services for your manuscript.

Please visit my **Hire Me** page for more information, and then let's chat! Tell me about your project:

<https://RidgeViewMedia.com/hire-me>

If you're able to and would like to show appreciation for this eBook via my Tip Jars, visit my **Hire Me** page for a list of my various payment accounts. There's no obligation. If you want to share the eBook with others, please give them the link to this blog post so they can download it themselves.

Thank you!

About the Author

Jenise Cook, M. A.

www.RidgeViewMedia.com AND www.JeniseCook.com

Jenise Cook is a creative writer, author, copyeditor, proofreader, photographer, and “maker”. She is the owner of Ridge View Media (www.RidgeViewMedia.com), a freelance consultancy.

Jenise’s corporate career encompassed over twenty years as a senior instructional designer, senior e-learning course developer, and senior technical writer. She still provides these services to clients upon request through Ridge View Media.

Jenise served as Copyeditor on the Editorial Team of *Lost Pen Magazine*, (www.lostpenpublishing.com, now retired indefinitely).

Jenise’s creative works have been published in various literary journals. Visit www.JeniseCook.com/publications

A sample of her photography resides on her eponymous website. Jenise assists her husband Mark Bently Crabbe with his fine art photo business.

Her creative maker items (greeting cards, bookmarks, and more) are available for sale at JeniseCook.com.

Jenise earned her B. A. and M. A. degrees in Spanish Language and Literature. Her under-graduate coursework included a study year abroad in Madrid, Spain, at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras (Edificio “A”) at the Universidad Complutense.

~ Soli Deo Gloria