

Story Study Guide for a Standalone Movie/Book

Title:

Genre:

Length:

Premise:

Who is the protagonist? When are they introduced?

What does the opening scene tell us about the characters?

Why do we feel sympathetic for the characters?

Does it start with something that will directly impact the protagonist?

If we are following more than one protagonist, what do they all have in common with each other/what brings them together?

What does the protagonist want, and why do they think it will make them happy?

When is their goal revealed?

What is their misbelief?

What is the event in their past that sparked this misbelief?

What are they afraid of?

Why do they struggle to accomplish their goal?

When/if the protagonist achieves their external goal, are they happy with the reality of it?

What themes/truths/big ideas are portrayed through each character?

Which characters have positive character arcs, and which characters have negative character arcs?

Take note of the climaxes:

- When the inciting incident happens (or the first push outside comfort zone)
- When the plot twist happens (or something gets in the way of progress)
- When the final climax happens (or protagonist faces their greatest challenge)