

Fairy Tale Template for a Short Film

This template is inspired by the one developed by Alexander Mackendrick. (See *On Filmmaking: An Introduction to the Craft of the Director*. London: Faber & Faber, 2005, pgs. 78-85.)

Once Upon a Time _____. *(Establish where your story will take place.)*

There Lived a _____. *Establish the main character, hero, or protagonist.*

But there was a Problem in the Land _____. *Establish the inciting incident that starts the story's main conflict that the protagonist must face and overcome.*

That the Hero had to Solve _____. *Establish the main character's drive, motive, goal, and stakes.*

By Defeating a Villain or Evil Force _____. *Establish the chief antagonist the protagonist has to overcome.*

That resulted in Battles and Obstacles _____. *Establish the problems and difficulties the protagonist must overcome to achieve the goal.*

The Result of Which _____. *Establish the chain of cause and effect conflict events that form the middle of the story. These should escalate, that is, grow more intense and challenging as the action develops.*

Produced Twists and Turns _____. *Establish the surprises and unexpected turn of events as the protagonist battles his or her foe.*

Until the Time came that _____. *Establish the obligatory scene or major confrontation or climax of the action.*

When Suddenly _____. *Establish the final major twist or surprise that heightens the action of the climax. This is optional.*

And it Turns Out that _____. *Establish the resolution or wrapping up of the story.*

And Forever After (or Not) _____. *Establish the end of the story and its closure which can be happy or sad.*

Are you happy with your story? Do you have to make revisions? You should go through at least three drafts of your story to make sure it works. Test your story out on your family and friends. Ask them if it works but remember they are not filmmakers or professional critics so ignore things when they are too petty or too subjective.

Read through the section in Chapter 6 on creating a Short Story Film Template. Be sure to lay out your story in single lines of action that can be filmed as in the example of PANIC in Chapter 6.