Exercise 1: What is a story?

***Example:***

*Roger is a middle-aged dentist whose wife disappears. He’s not sure whether she left him, or if something sinister happened to her. She was a dog groomer and insisted on working out of their apartment, even though he’s severely allergic to dogs. Roger was constantly sneezing, which worried his patients, who thought he was coming down with a cold and would give it to them. Lately, he’d been losing business. His wife wanted him to take time off so they could go to Hawaii and rekindle their relationship, but thanks to his dwindling practice, he couldn’t afford to take time off. Now she’s gone, and he’s not sure what to do.*

**Response:**

My story is about a middle-aged man who doesn’t believe that his life needs to change but has a verbally abusive wife (Allegra) that is constantly putting him down for being lazy, unambitious and not living up to his potential. She is constantly begging him to do better at his dentistry practice and in their relationship. She believes that their marriage is on the rocks due to his lack of effort and wants them to reconnect. Recently she has taken up work as a dog groomer in an effort to pay for a second honeymoon to rekindle their relationship (which Rodger doesn’t believe is necessary). The problem is that she has to work from their apartment and he is allergic to dogs. Now he is constantly sick at work which leads to him losing business and the prospect of the honeymoon drifting further out of reach financially. One day he arrives home to find that she is no longer there. He waits up for her from the time he gets home until 7am when he decides that she isn’t coming back. Rodger knows he should call the police but decides that he wants to prove to his wife that he can find her and isn’t just the ‘lazy-bum’ she calls him and decides to go after her himself. He picks himself up, packs a bag and goes out looking for her. Along the way to finding his missing wife Rodger discovers that he is capable of more than he thought he ever could be. As he follows lead after lead in the hopes of tracking down his wife he comes to see that she may have been right about him not living up to his potential.

1. What happens:
   1. A man gets home to find that his wife is missing.
   2. He waits for her until 7am the next morning before deciding that she isn’t coming back.
   3. The man then decides to go looking for his wife and conducts his and investigation to find her.
2. Who does the plot affect?
   1. When his wife leaves, the protagonist is shaken out of his apathy and decides to go to after her.
3. What is the protagonist’s goal?
   1. Extrinsic goal: Find his wife.
   2. Intrinsic goal: Prove to his wife that he isn’t the lazy-bum that she thinks he is.
4. How does the protagonist change?
   1. He comes to realize that he can work hard, has talents and can be an active agent in his own life and more importantly that he has potential that he hasn’t been living up to.