

MOVIE SYNOPSIS

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Title _____ Writer _____

Genre _____ Length (pages) _____

Logline _____

1. THE SETUP (BEGINNING)

Who is the hero? What is their world? What do they want? What happens that starts the story?

2. THE CONFRONTATION (MIDDLE)

What stands in the way? How do things get worse? What is the midpoint twist and the low point? How is the hero changing?

3. THE RESOLUTION (END)

How does the climax play out? How does it end? What has the hero gained or lost?

Rules: present tense, third person, main character names in CAPITALS the first time, include the ending, one page if you can.

MOVIE SYNOPSIS: EXAMPLE

Free movie synopsis template from iFILMthings.com

Title Home Alone Writer John Hughes

Genre Family comedy Length (pages) 1

Logline When his family accidentally leaves him behind at Christmas, an 8-year-old must defend his home from two burglars.

1. THE SETUP (BEGINNING)

Who is the hero? What is their world? What do they want? What happens that starts the story?

It's the night before the McCallister family flies to Paris for Christmas. Eight-year-old KEVIN, the youngest of five, is sent to the attic after a fight at dinner and wishes his family would disappear. A power cut makes everyone oversleep, and in the rush to the airport nobody notices Kevin is missing.

2. THE CONFRONTATION (MIDDLE)

What stands in the way? How do things get worse? What is the midpoint twist and the low point? How is the hero changing?

Kevin wakes up alone and thinks his wish came true. On the plane, his mother KATE realises what they've done and starts a desperate journey home. Two burglars, HARRY and MARV, are working through the empty houses on the street. Kevin fakes a party to scare them off, but Harry works out he's alone, and they plan to break in on Christmas Eve. Kevin starts to miss his family.

3. THE RESOLUTION (END)

How does the climax play out? How does it end? What has the hero gained or lost?

Kevin turns the house into a trap: paint cans, a hot doorknob, ornaments on the floor. When the burglars finally catch him, neighbour OLD MAN MARLEY, the man Kevin has feared all film, knocks them out with a snow shovel and the police arrest them. On Christmas morning Kate arrives, then the rest of the family. Kevin watches Marley reunite with his own son.