

# The Treasure Of The Sierra Madre

Directed by John Houston - 1948

## Who is the protagonist?

Dobbs – Played by Humphrey Bogart – A down on his luck man looking to gain a quick buck in Mexico. Dobbs crosses paths with Curtin, a man in a similar situation. Dobbs and Curtin quickly meet an old prospector who tells of finding gold in the hills of the Sierra Madres.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

Gold. The first conflict with gold is the turmoil of finding it and the work that goes into taking it from the ground. The next is greed, all three men become untrusting of one another and begin hiding the gold from each other until the point of insanity. Then the gold becomes a problem once again as they leave the claim and circumstances break up the trio. Each character is set on having their share of the gold to whatever ends. The gold turns Bogart's character into another person and plays a role in the path he takes to his death.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Good intentioned men can easily lose all sense of trust and moral standing when gold and greed are placed in front of them. The outcomes of finding and having gold aren't set in stone and the spoils of labor can easily be blown away in the wind.

## Are the characters relatable?

Given that this movie was made in 1948, the way the dialogue is presented takes getting used to. But, I do think that the characters are relatable everyone gets mixed up and sensitive when it comes to money. I found Curtin, Dobbs partner, the most relatable. Curtin was usually in the middle of each conflict and his actions were only a response to the others negative actions. He never lost his mind over the money as Dobbs did. Throughout the movie Curtin seemed most level headed of the two. Even after being betrayed and left for dead by his partner, Curtin never truly lost his way and had hopes of turning his money into a full life. And at the end when Curtin and the old prospector discovered the gold forever lost he was able to laugh it off and move on despite losing it all.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

Gold has a big part in my story. One of three characters in the script is the owner of the gold dredging operation and in the story his earnings and pay for the workers is stolen. From there greed takes hold of an honest man. From this movie I paid close attention to how greed affected the three men and how gold drove Bogart's character to his demise.

# How The West Was Won

Directed by John Ford, Henry Hathaway, George Marshall, & Richard Thorpe - 1968

## Who is the protagonist?

This movie is unconventional and continually moves around to different characters and storylines. All of these stories and characters are connected to a the Prescott family, in particular the two Prescott sisters who go there separate ways after tragedy strikes there family as they travel westward. After the death of the sisters family the girls go there separate ways and both are impacted by the expansion and building of the United States.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

Each of the different storylines present different conflicts. Lawlessness, love, crossing the plains, civil war, gold, and death all drive the narrative. All of those problems are just different parts that play into the settling of the west and the shaping of a new country.

## What is the Theme of the film?

The world around us is constantly changing. Sometimes in a better direction and other times not so much. How each of us adapt and press forward shape not only ourselves but the country we live in.

## Are the characters relatable?

I found the two Prescott sisters only relatable at times. I grew a quick disconnect from Eve when she forwardly through herself at James Stewart, a trapper, who came across the family before and after the death of the majority of the Prescott family. Eves persistence finally paid off, but her thick headed stubbornness to stay in one spot for the rest of her life while the world around her was constantly seemed foolish to me. The only took interest in her was when she reluctantly permitted her son to join the ranks of the union army and leave the farm. The other sister, Julie Prescott, who jumped on the first riverboat west after her parents were killed was much more lively and adventurous then her sister. She blindly headed west after inheriting a gold claim only to arrive to a claim that was worth nothing and panned out. She kept her head up and used her talent as stage presence to build a life in the newly forming west. She was plagued and by a handsome, no good, card playing, slick talking, indescive fool of man throughout her life. I didn't find there love story relatable at all and was bothered by the fact that she even went back to him after being apart. Dumb.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

What impressed me about this movie was how it showed several different characters and moved through from time and place without confusion or loss of story. The script I will be writing will follow three different men each with their own story, but all three converging at the end. The way this movie kept its main story while still changing stories was a good example for me to learn from.

# Once Upon A Time In The West

Directed by Sergio Leone – 1968

## Who is the protagonist?

This story revolves around 4 characters. A woman who escaped the city in search of a new beginning. A hired gun employed by the impending railroad. And the other two characters who become the heroes of the story. The first man is a gunslinger running from false

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

The main conflict is Between Mrs. McBane and the railroad. For most of the story the reason why Mrs. McBane is being tormented is kept hidden until she discovers the reason why her deceased husband had purchased seemingly worthless land. The Harmonica Playing Man and the gunman Cheyenne band together to help in the damsel in distress scenario. The other conflict that drives the narrative is between the Harmonica Man and Frank, the man sent by the railroad to drive Mrs. McBane from her land. Although the reason why the Harmonica Man has a grudge against Frank is never made clear until the end; it becomes more and more obvious throughout the story that a wrong has been made and the Harmonica Man is set to even the score.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Good deeds done while on a path of murder and honor.

## Are the characters relatable?

The Harmonica Man is the most standout character in the story. But I feel like Cheyenne was the most relatable character in the story. His demeanor was playful and serious. H showed skill and clever resourcefulness when danger was present. He also stayed and lent aid on occasions that had no gain or positive outcome for him. Plus, the way he never led on to Mrs. McBane that he was moments away from death upon his departure at the end. Leaving her to believe he rode off and lived to ride another day. When in reality he fall of his horse and died from a wound on the other side of the hill from McBane's newly forming town.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story

I really like the way this movie was shot. The story was portrayed using close ups and long distant shots. I thought how the story was built of using cinematography as much as dialogue was inspiring and something to take serious note of. I also like the way the Harmonica Man was portrayed, keeping his identity a secret and leaving the viewer to fill in the blanks of his story. I'd like to make the Sherriff have a degree of mystery as well.

# There Will Be Blood

Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson – 2008

## Who is the protagonist?

Daniel, a self built oil tycoon. In the beginning Daniel takes in a baby boy whose father had tragically died while digging for oil. Daniel portrays the boys father as they roam from town to town in search of striking oil. Ultimately striking rich but not without turmoil. Another protagonist is Eli, a small town preacher with self-proclaimed powers of healing and strong following. Eli is the character that tells Daniel the town in which he would build his oil empire.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

The main conflict seems to mostly be between Daniel and his own demons. Daniel is a stern man and quick to anger. He quickly makes an enemy of the community preacher Eli. Eli becomes a prevalent threat and annoyance to Daniel as his level of anger and scorn rises. Daniels demons catch up to him while in his old age. He becomes a drunk and a recluse. Eli returns to him and asks for money. Daniel then forces Eli into blasphemy and shame in a way to receive retribution for Eli doing the same to him years before. Without in notice Daniel snaps and bashes Eli's head into the floor.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Hard work and sacrifice can pay off, but none of those things can settle anger.

## Are the characters relatable?

Daniel was such a strong character. He was the hero and at the same time the bad guy. I wanted him to be successful and even get back at Eli for forcing his religion onto him. Even when he abandoned his son I knew he was doing the right thing for both of them, as he showed true care and sense of family. He stopped being relatable in the latter part of his life when bitterness crept and pushed his son away from him. My favorite part was the end, after Daniel had just killed Eli and sat on the floor and said "I'm Finished."

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

Like Once Upon a Time In The West I liked how there was little dialogue and the story was told through cinematography. The silent suspenseful scenes were able to explain more than words would be able to. Helping me understand how to display characters, time era, and story by using the power of visual over script.

# 3:10 To Yuma

Directed by James Mangold – 2007

## Who is the protagonist?

This Story revolves around two characters; the outlaw Ben Wade and Dan the struggling family man and farmer. Ben Wade is captured by a Pinkerton lawman and Dan signs up for delivering the Famous outlaw to the train bound for a jail in order to raise money and save his farm and dignity.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

The Conflict that surrounds the two characters is imprisonment for Ben and the threat of Dan losing the farm and good standing with his family. Ben Wade has a gang of outlaws prepared to do whatever it takes to free their leader. Dan is about to lose his farm and his family sees him as weak and blames him for situation there in. Dan takes on the burden of delivering Ben Wade to justice. Knowing full well that he must kill in order to receive his reward.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Standing tall when weak. Unlikely characters becoming friends.

## Are the characters relatable?

Ben Wade is known for being ruthless, but for the most part he's just another man carving his way into the west. He leads a loyal bunch of outlaws that fight to the death in order to save him. It's apparent that Dan has had troubles leading to the story, but when he gets the opportunity to show his worth he shows plenty as he is the only man brave enough to escort Ben Wade through a greedy town and onto the departing train. Seeing that the only way Dan can regain all that he holds dear, a shackled Ben Wade helps the Poor Farmer as they make their way through gunfire. Both of these characters show strong morals and trust in one another and the outlaw becomes the hero.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

I've seen this movie before and the only reason I watched it again was to further study Ben Wades sidekick, Charlie Prince. If anything he's the meanest and most loyal out of all the cast. Ben Foster plays Charlie as a perfect villain of the west ruthless, witty, and full of loyalty. When it comes time for me to build up the villain in my story I draw back on how Charlie Prince was portrayed.

# Paint Your Wagon

Directed by Joshua Logan - 1969

## Who is the protagonist?

Two men on the search for gold partner up in prospecting and even wife. Ben is an older loud-mouthed drunk and seemingly the brains behind the operation. Pardner, a younger quiet man, becomes Bens partner on a gold claim in wild western town.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

Trouble in the partnership arrives when Ben drunkenly buys a wife from a Mormon polygamist. No Name City is a town of only men and many come from miles around to look upon the only women in the territory. Ben quickly becomes jealous and quick to judge the intentions of everyone around him including Pardner his partner. The women falls in love with both men and Ben decides to extend his partnership with Pardner into a shared claim with his wife in order to keep everyone happy. The two men start a scheme of tunneling under the town to capture lost gold dust as tension between the strange love triangle grows.

## What is the Theme of the film?

How a partnership can divide when placed with love and gold.

## Are the characters relatable?

Not at all, I was mostly annoyed with characters. Firstly I can't stand musicals and this one especially as most of the songs were full of glee when in reality a boom town like No Name City would have been hard to place live and survive. I also hated the love triangle, the wife had the opportunity to find love with the obvious Pardner, but choose to make things awkward and keep both men. Of course things would dissolve. Making this an unrealistic story. In addition the two men destroy the town as an outcome to their corrupt approach of digging for gold.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

This movie is set in the same place and during a similar time as the story I'll be writing. I was forced as a child to watch this because it was shot only twenty miles from the town I grew up in. Knowing that I didn't enjoy it then I watched this again only to take away the set and the fact that part of the conflict revolved around gold. I did notice that there were Chinese workers this time. In my story I want to show the fact that the Chinese were a part of the search for gold in Eastern Oregon.

# The Guard

Directed by John Michael McDonagh - 2011

## Who is the protagonist?

This story revolves around a string of drug-involved murders in rural Ireland and how the main character, inspector Gerry Boyle, deals with these crimes. Gerry Boyle is a witty, outlandish senior detective of a small town and receives the help of an American FBI to stop the corruption that has spread into the police force.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

The conflict is between the group of men trying to smuggle drugs through the small town and the unwillingness of inspector Boyle to cooperate. Throughout being threatened and bribed Inspector Boyle never yielded to the demands of the smuggling ring or the rest of the Irish Guard.

## What is the theme of the film?

It's not always the knight in shining armor who saves the day. Unlikely pair finds common ground. Doing what's right when it's easier not to.

## Are the characters relatable?

The American FBI agent Everett's character was spot on. He arrived full of determination and pomp, but was quickly humbled by Inspector Boyle and the foreign new environment he was placed in. Boyle was rollercoaster though. Going from being familiar and relatable to knocking your socks off with his sardonic responses to situations and his appetite for substance abuse.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

I paid close attention to the unlikely duo that was created in The Guard. Boyle and Don Cheadle's character were from two different worlds and have two very different ways investigating. Trust and acceptance is finally gained as the two lay down a storm of bullets on the smugglers. I took note on how local guardsman Boyle was pretty outlandish and the character was familiar and how a small blanket of mystery was surrounding him. Leaving the audience with questions never fully answered.

# '71

Directed by Yann Demange - 2014

## Who is the protagonist?

Private Gary Hook, A young man on his first assignment in the British army. He is sent to help control the peace in Ireland and settle the escalating conflict between the IRA and the protestant locals.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

The Conflict is quickly set as the young soldiers are thrown into a angry mob. The clash between the IRA and the pro-British rule protestant becomes deadly after two IRA members kill a British soldier during the chaos of the riot. From there the main character is separated and left behind by the rest of his regiment and he becomes the target of the warring IRA. Inside of the conflict lies several other conflicts the most important being that the British undercover men are working with the IRA and seem to be help in the relief search of Pvt. Hook but ultimately wish to see him dead due to things he has witnessed on his journey to freedom.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Man hunting man.

## Are the characters relatable?

The story gives glimpse into Private Hook's past by showing the relationship he was with his orphan brother back in England. Throughout his whole ordeal in Ireland there is a feeling of urgency and yearning to escape and reunite with his brother. Hook shows courage and acted in ways he had never done before in order to escape the group of men hunting him. I found this character to be very real and reacted to his situation the same way we all hope we would.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

This story has shown me a good example of a young, brave, and real leading character can be. In my story the one of the characters is hated by the town and is in pursuit by a group of riders. I enjoyed all the twists and turns that the character in '71 went through in order to escape and also how relentless the men in pursuit were.



# The Assassination Of Jesse James By The Coward Robert Ford

Directed by Andrew Dominik - 2007

## Who is the protagonist?

The famous outlaw Jesse James and mainly Robert Ford the man who killed Jesse.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

The title of the movie tells the conflict. The story takes place during the winding down of Jesse James's career as an outlaw. Bob Ford and his brother become part of the heist and through persistence the younger brother Bob gains the trust and company of Jesse. Bob Ford seems to be obsessed with Jesse and tries at every chance to awkwardly win him over. After James had released Bob, his brother and Jesse's cousin entangled him with a backhanded plot unbeknown to Jesse. The partnership dissolves and ends with Bob killing the James cousin in order to save his brother. Afraid of what Jesse would do, the truth is concealed from him. Jesse discovers the lie while in the presence of the two men. A man he let into his home and trusted shoots an unarmed Jesse James in the back. Robert "Bob" Ford.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Fame gained by killing an icon.

## Are the characters relatable?

Jesse James is portrayed as different man than I imagined. He's still ruthless and sometimes evil, but also a family man with a sense of humor. As for Robert Ford, every one has idles and wishes they could be like the person they have posterred on the wall. Bobs obsession with jesse didn't stay in his childhood and his peculiar way of showing made me uncomfortable as I knew the whole time this was going to be the man who killed Jesse James

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

This is a great story, but for me I watched it for the cinematography used. The story line is slow and the dialogue the same but, the way this movie is shot is inspiring. The scene where the masked men are preparing to board the train is a definite standout. There's also a dark mood created through the surroundings. This mood left you knowing something was going to happen, but when this would happen felt far away. Knowing Jesse was going to die the entire I was even left shocked when he was finally killed. Great movie and great way for me to understand how mood can be created in a story.

# McCabe and Mrs. Miller

Directed by Robert Altman - 1971

## Who is the protagonist?

McCabe, a stubborn Gambler and Mrs. Miller a pushy prostitute.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

To me the main conflict is between McCabe and Mrs. Miller as the two become partners they clash heads at the same time growing fonder towards each other. The other conflict arrives when McCabe repeatedly turns down an offer to buy his property. He thinks he's being clever in his refusals and is holding out for more money, but the company grew tired of him and sends in a gunslinger to remove McCabe and Mrs. Miller.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Finding the strength to save something you didn't realize was so important in the beginning.

## Are the characters relatable?

These characters aren't particularly relatable to me. McCabe is foolish and arrogant. Mrs. Miller is loud and commanding. Only at the end when McCabe must defend Mrs. Miller and the town did I find a sense of familiarity and being relatable.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

My story lacks women. This story has the type of women that would be in the town my story is set. The west was a new frontier and small boomtowns where mostly comprised of men and a handful of prostitutes. I've been having trouble trying to figure how I could show the truth of a gold mining town. This story helped me to gain a sense of how the and where women would be set in a story during that time period.

# Heaven's Gate

Directed by Michael Cimino - 1980

## Who is the protagonist?

The story begins and ends with Jim Averill, played by Kris Kristofferson. A well to do educated lawman of culturally divided town. The story also revolves around a prostitute that Jim and another men both fall in love with.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

The Cattleman's association is having trouble with the local immigrant families. The majority of the town is starving and coming upon hard times. Citizens start stealing cattle in order to feed their starving families. In rebuttal the Cattleman's association creates a list signed by the government that warrants the killing of 125 poor citizens. Kris Kristofferson's character is in love with a local prostitute that has found herself on the list. The woman is also in love with a character played by Christopher Walken, who is a member of the Cattle Organization. The rich cattlemen hire a large group of men to kill all that are on their list. Chaos and death ensue as the town begin to take fire from the armed militia.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Class war. The struggle between the poor and the starving and the privileged and the entitled lawmakers.

## Are the characters relatable?

Kris Kristofferson and Christopher Walken's characters both are relatable. Both men are upstanding and love the same women. Due to both of their jobs they are put on the side of taking care of the immigrant problem, but both find themselves trying to save the town and standing up for what is right in the end. I also liked how in the end Kris was shown to have found happiness and a life elsewhere far away from where his troubles had taken place. All the while never forgetting what had happened.

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

The struggle between rich and poor was a guiding conflict in this story. Both sides are strong, the rich have the means and fire power. While the poor have determination to fight for a cause that overpowers land and property. This movie is awful, slow, and long.

# Unforgiven

Directed by Clint Eastwood - 1992

## Who is the protagonist?

Will Munny, a widowed retired gunslinger who hears of reward and justice needing to be served in a distant town.

## What is the conflict that drives the narrative?

A prostitute has been disfigured and scared by a group of men and the other prostitutes want justice to be served. The sheriff doesn't see that their punishment warrants death and only gives the men a whipping. The Prostitutes disagree with the punishment and behind the sheriffs back place a bounty on the heads of the men. Munny and his two partners come into town and are quickly greeted by a sheriff who doesn't want them around. At one point Ned, Munnys longtime partner, is fed up with the killing and leaves town only be shot down be the sheriffs men. His body is put on display in town to warn off the bounty hunters.

## What is the Theme of the film?

Justice served by a hard man.

## Are the characters relatable?

I thought the virtue of Munny made him an interesting character. As he was known for killing, drinking, gambling, and being an outlaw for the most part, but only to give it all up when he met his wife. Being that his wife had died and the farm and his two children were in need he decided to put on his guns again. He recruits the help of his old friend. The two have a long and understanding friendship and are the perfect duo. The kid that joins there ranks along the way was a little much for me and as his character was outspoken and often lies about his experiences of being an outlaw. I

## What can I take away from this film that might help me as I write my story?

Gene Hackman plays the perfect villain in this story and I like the fact that he controls the entire town. In my story the man that runs the town isn't a bad person, but his second in command is. I'll use the example of a controlling villain as gene Hackman portrayed when building the character for my villain. I also liked how Clint's character used to be a gunslinger but comes out of retirement one last time. In my story I want the sheriff to be a retired looking gentleman who has been called upon to finish one last job to keep the peace.