# Assignment 2: Part II: Movie 5: Looper

1. **Who is the protagonist of the story?**

There are two protagonists, young Joe and old Joe.

1. **What is the conflict that drives the narrative?**

The conflict driving the story forward is when old Joe travels back in time to young Joe. Old Joe is able to escape young Joe’s bullets so he can save himself in the future and be with the woman (his wife) he loves.

1. **What is the theme of the film?**

There are many themes here, even though it is a time travel film, it is not really about time travel.

The primary theme would be about the relationships between parents who abandon their children. This movie shows how this impacts the children as they get older e.g. Joe was abandoned by his mother who was a drug addict and sold him to a pan handling group and then he became involved with Abe, the Looper leader from the future. In an interesting twist, we understand what would happen to Cid if he loses his mother, that he would become the notorious Rainmaker. It is inferred that if young Joe kills himself, then Cid and his mother would still live and she can make sure Cid grows up without becoming the Rainmaker.

In a secondary theme, we see how the love that the older Joe has for his wife, drives him to travel back in time to risk his life to kill the children he thinks are the Rainmaker in order for him to be able to live his life with her.

1. **Are the characters relatable? Why and why not?**

This movie is very character-driven, we see a lot of the emotions that are driving both young and old Joe and these are what make us human. The idea of old Joe being motivated by the love of his wife, even if it means killing innocent children, is relatable for anyone who has experienced love. Also, younger Joe becomes more attached with Cid and understands the cycle of killing and takes his own life to save someone else’s. Initially, both Joe’s are selfish and out for themselves, however, we see their emotional arc change throughout the movie as they grow attachments to other people.

1. **What can you take away from this film that might benefit you as you write your story?**

Looper has clearly shown that to engage the audience in a story that involves multiple times either future, present or past, there needs to be a story that weaves all the times together clearly and succinctly to bring the audiences in. Rian Johnson did a great job at this and also by making some of it non-linear, just builds the confusion and tension.

When placing the story in the future (or near future), Rian Johnson kept the look and feel of things the same except with some key props e.g. the motorcycle that flies, the TV that appears and disappears without any hardware, a phone that looks clear and made of glass, he doesn’t do too much of it which makes it even more believable.