# Assignment 2: Part II: Movie 1: 12 Monkeys

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

The protagonist of the story is James Cole played by Bruce Willis, a criminal from the future sent back in time to find out who the Army of the 12 Monkeys are who had unleashed a virus into the world forcing everyone to live underground. He is known for his ability to keep his head and observe things.

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

The conflict that drives this narrative is for James Cole, a criminal embarking on a dangerous time traveling journey to earn a pardon, is sent back to 1996 to find a group called the Army of the 12 Monkeys who unleashed a deadly virus contaminating the atmosphere and forcing humans to live underground. The hope is that if the group is found, James Cole could get a sample of the virus and the future world can create a cure.

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

The theme of the film is Man versus Mother Nature and that Mother Nature usually wins. For example, Man cannot play with deadly viruses without major consequences as it forces the human race to live underground. Additionally, playing with time travel not only wreaks havoc with the subjects during the journey, but no matter what is changed in the past, it cannot change the future, fate is already at play.

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

James Cole: A convicted criminal sent back in time to find the deadly virus in order to find a cure and he will be pardoned. His motivation is to find a cure so he can be set free in the future, we see his dreams through looking at the beaches of Florida instead of being stuck in a tiny jail cell. It is human nature to want to be free and independent in all things, in work, love and life. His motivation is definitely relatable.

Jeffrey Goines: A mental patient in the psychiatric institution whose father is a Nobel Peace Prize winning virologist. The audience believes he is the leader of the organization that releases the deadly virus but in the end, he is against the inhumane treatment of animals and releases the animals in the zoo while jailing his father in the cages. He is a quirky character but not too relatable, though a good character for the story.

Dr. Kathryn Railly: A doctor tending to James Cole, she is the one who initially doesn’t believe his story and then after finding evidence throughout the movie, starts to believe. She brings the intellectual, reasoning, logical side to his craziness. Initially, she is not that relatable to me, she is too passive and reacting to James Cole, however, towards the end, she becomes more directive and takes action.   
  
**What can you take away from this film that might benefit you as you write your story?**

* The use of music to identify different key characters of the story and describing them e.g. when getting close to clues on the Army of the 12 Monkeys, specific music is played.
* The use of symbols found across the different times, the red spray paint stencil, looking like graffiti on the walls is found in all the different times.
* The use of showing one dream sequence of James Cole, repeatedly throughout the movie unifies the past, present and the future. When the actual scene plays itself out, the audience understands the whole story.
* Items and locations from different times crossing over e.g. a bullet from the civil war lodged in his leg is taken out by Dr Kathryn Railly in 1996.
* The use of camera angles, such as dutch angles in the psychiatric institution to show confusion and abnormality.
* To unify different times, some of the same people appear in different guises e.g. a man in the future, appears in the past (1990) to James Cole as a psychiatric security guard and gives him just the amount of time to escape. It is a familiar face and works very well in unifying the different times and places. The voice of the bum on the streets in 1990 is also the voice in the jail cell in the future.
* To unify different times, have some of the same actions being made to the same characters. For example, Bruce Willis’ character is hosed down in the future after he gets back from getting specimens from the outside world. In the past, when he is put into the psychiatric ward, he is also hosed down in the same manner.
* The story of Ricky Newman was James Cole in 1996 unified his story to Dr Kathryn Railly.