Chapter 4 Quiz

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Explain the problem with only "writing what you know". How will you, as the screenwriter, go about creating stories that exist outside your realm of experience?

The problem with writing only what you know is that many writers are not that interesting in their daily lives. By imagining the possibilities which will make up the stories.

Explain what makes a fantastical story believable.

By making the characters make decisions in a way that people can relate to.

What tools are needed to write "believable" characters?

Recognizing drives, what makes people feel certain ways and why they do the things they do will make them more believable even amongst a crazy situation.

How do you move a story idea beyond simple spectacle?

Find a way to make the audience connect with the characters. Don’t focus so much on the spectacle. Aristotle said it was the least worthy element of drama.

What ingredients are necessary to create a compelling story?

Big arcs and motivations we can relate to. You have to make it interesting.

Explain the difference between the "inner" and "outer" focus of a story.

The inner focus of a story is how you arrange the order of a story’s elements to create a movement toward some resolution. The outer focus tends to be the dramatic irony of the story, the inherent speeches and actions of the characters understood by the audience but no the characters themselves.

What is the biggest mistake beginning writers make? Why is it a problem?

Writing their screenplay like a novel. The screenplay is the blueprint for the movie, it should have so much detail in descriptions and things.

What are the structural elements of a script?

Plot, character, setting, time, dialog, pace.

Why is it important to predict Hollywood’s upcoming trends?

Since it can take years to turn a movie around you want to stay on top of trends so that your film isn’t stale and overdone at the point it is released.

Describe what a synopsis should entail.

The entire story in a few pages or less. No descriptions of particular scenes.

What is "creative discipline? Why is it important?

I would say it is a strong work ethic when it comes to your craft. It is a necessary component of success.