

Glossary

Slumdog Millionaire (2008) – Narrative

Component 2 - Section A: Global English language film (produced outside US)

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Narrative	the way events are connected in a film; the story.
Circular narrative	A narrative that starts at the end then goes back in time to return to this point later on.
Episodic narrative	A narrative that has clearly separated sections, often broken up by a title, date or by the cut back to a narrator.
Spectator response	The meaning a viewer takes from a film.
Spectator alignment	The way that a film positions the viewer to be sympathetic to or agree with a character's perspective or experience.
A cause-and-effect narrative	A narrative where one action leads to the next to move it forward.
Flashback/flashforward	A brief look back into the past or look forward in time to give the spectator more information about the events leading up to or following the film's narrative.
Restricted narrative	When the audience only knows as much as the main character.
Binary opposition	Direct opposites in film texts, for example themes (good vs evil) or characters (Jamal vs Salim). Depending on which side 'wins' in each opposition, it tells the spectator who we should align with.
Enigma codes	Mystery within a text.
Todorov's narrative stages	Equilibrium, disruption, disequilibrium, repair, new equilibrium.
Archetypes (Propps' character types)	These character types include: hero, villain, helper, donor, mentor and princess.
Closed ending	provides resolution and typically ties up most, if not all, loose ends in the narrative.
Narrative beat	A story beat is a shift in the narrative. Story beats can be emotional turns, incidents or events, actions, and reactions, or realizations. Essentially, beats are small moments that move the story forward.
Story	The ideas & events of the narrative whole.
Plot	Different to story, plot is the narrative order that the story is told in.

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