

Lesson Plan

Lecture Title: A Series of Unfortunate Events Media Dissection: Analyzing Storytelling Through Mediums

Course: CO 3XX3 Dissecting Narrative Design Across Media

Week Taught: Week 9

Professor: Kelan Traylor

Preparation Requirements:

- Watch: A Series of Unfortunate Events (Film) & Season 1 of A Series of Unfortunate Events
- Read: “Why the 6 Elements of Story Are the Key to All Great Stories” & “The Five Essential Elements of a Great Story”

Lecture Time: 50 minutes

Framework

Step 1: What will the students gain?

This lesson aims to help the students realize that the design of narratives varies with the medium a story is being narrated. Through the comparison of film and series versions of the same story, the students will focus on how the film storytelling elements are impacted in telling the story, including tone, narration, structure, and character developments, and how they change the way the audience interprets the story. The students will also put these concepts into practice by adapting their own ideas of short stories by using various media formats, which will help to support the knowledge of narrative design.

Lesson Objectives

At the conclusion of this lesson, the students will have the ability to:

- **Understand:** Name and explain such major elements of storytelling in narrative media such as, rising point, turning point, climax, and resolution.
- **Analyze:** Explain how various elements of narration can be applied in film and tv series.
- **Evaluate:** Consider the elements of storytelling decisions and their effect on tone, narration, story structure, and character development in different mediums.
- **Apply:** Additional skills in storytelling in the narrative, which will use a short story concept to adapt it to a non-storytelling medium.

Step 2: How will students apply the knowledge and material.

Learning in students will be shown by:

Story Brainstorm Activity

At the start of the lesson, students will come up with a short story idea.

Media Analysis Discussion

Differences in the film and television clips are analyzed by the students using guided discussion questions.

Story Adaptation Activity

The students go back to their initial idea of the story and think about how the elements of the narrative can evolve when the story is told in a film or a television series.

Students will write their story reflections on Canvas, or do the activity on the optional paper handout, which is offered during the classroom session.

Step 3: Experience through learning elements

Icebreaker (First 5-10 Minutes)

The instructor starts the lesson with the introduction of the idea of narrative storytelling within the frames of various media types and discusses the fact that the same story may be told in different ways when it is represented in the form of a film or even a series. Students are requested to brainstorm a short story idea basing on what they have imagined, what they have experienced in life, or what they have been inspired by media that they have recently read or watched.

The students use either of the following to write down/turn in their ideas:

- Canvas OR Copy Paper (uploaded through canvas)

Lecture Materials

Narrative structure (I Do)

Important Elements:

- Rising Point
- Turning Point
- Crisis
- Climax
- Resolution

These aspects are introduced as a paradigm that can be applied to the analysis of stories of various media. Students are invited to think of how narrative pacing and tone and narration can change according to whether the story is told in form of film or a television series. The instructor then poses guiding questions which will assist students in making an analysis of storytelling choices as they watched the following clips.

Media Analysis (We Do)

Students view brief clips out of “A series of unfortunate events,” film and series. The learners can see how the storytelling elements like tone, narration, pacing and character development are different. Students will be engaged in a guided discussion after watching the clips and with the help of the following questions:

- How is the story told differently between the two different mediums?
- Which version do you believe gives more room for character development?
- How does Lemony Snicket (Narrator) influence how the audience understand/can follow along?
- Do you personally feel that the tone is the same in both versions, why or why not?

Active Activity (You Do)

Students go back to the idea of a story that they have made in the classroom. They are also requested to think over how their story would alter according to the medium. Students consider such questions as:

Film Version

- What would your tone be?
- What do you think conflict or climax would be like?

Series Version

- How drastic would your character development change/how would you remake your character?
- Is the narrator obvious or not?

The activity enables the learner to practice the concepts in narratives to their own storytelling process, which is a way of supporting the objectives of the lesson under deliberate practice.

Closure

At the end of the lesson, the instructor is summarizing the most important points discussed:

- Different stories are told through different mediums, but all have an influence on tone, narration, character development, and story structure

- You are all storytellers and you can adapt a narrative to fit whichever medium you would like.
- The different storytelling elements from the articles help shape how much narratives have an impact on narratives.

Final Question:

- Experiencing this film and tv series which medium do you think gives the most flexibility and is it the same across different films and tv series based off the same objective?

Students are made aware that storytelling is not only affected by the content of the story, but also by the medium by which the story would be told. The teacher requests students to take a few minutes to think over what medium they consider most efficient to tell the stories and why. This summary of the discussion supports the lesson objectives and how narrative design is related to the larger ideas of media studies.