Unit 2: Drama & Film

Elements of Drama

- Plot

- Character

- Setting

- Theme

- Mood

Plot: the structure of a story

o Causal Plot
- Exposition: background information
- Complications: series of events resulting from a conflict, each conflict leads to the next
- Climax: moment of greatest tension, when the complications come to a head
- Resolution: end of the story, complications resolved, loose ends tied together

o Episodic Plot
o Similar to the causal plot, but the events don't necessarily build on each other

Causal vs. Episodic Plots

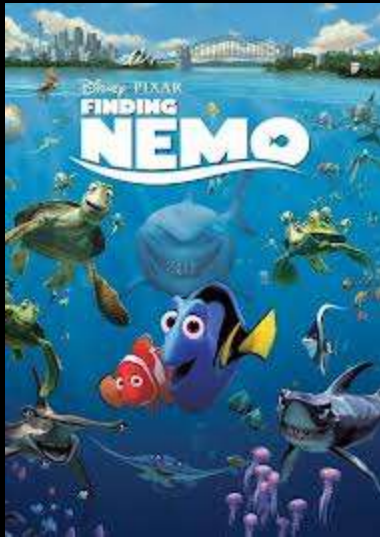| Causal Plot	Episodic Plot
Exposition	Exposition
Complications	Episodes
Climax	Climax
Resolution	Resolution

Linear vs. Nonlinear

- Linear: story maintains a strict chronological timeline

- Nonlinear: plot uses logical or illogical jumps of time
  - Example: Dark Knight Rises, Inception

Character

- <u>Protagonist:</u> main character, story usually told through his eyes

- <u>Antagonist:</u> main adversary, creates the conflict that sets the complications in motion

Setting: location & time frame

Period Film: set in a defined historical era

Theme & Mood

- Theme: central idea underlying a story
  - gives the story its intellectual meaning
  - Not all movies have themes (example: comedies, light musicals)
  - Examples: religion, patriotism, morality, Love, Man vs. Nature

  - Mood: quality of a film
  - Examples: funny, sad, optimistic, dark, profound
  - Doesn't have to match the mood of the story or the theme

Title of Movie:

Setting:

       Location_____ Time Frame: _____

Characters:

       Protagonist:_____Antagonist: _____

Plot:

Circle the correct type of plot: causal/episodic   linear/nonlinear

Exposition:

Conflict:

Complications (list at least 3):

Climax:

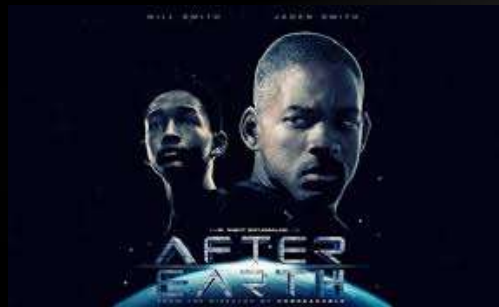**Resolution**

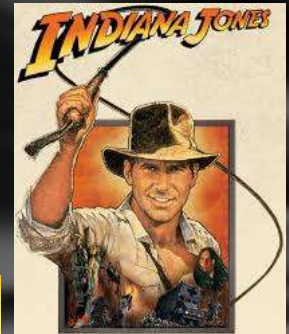**Mood: _____   Theme: _____**

Elements of Film

- Genres
- Cinematography
- Point of View
- Film Editing

Film Genres (Narrative Film Only)

- <u>Action/Adventure</u>: crime, distaster, martial arts, swashbuckler, war

- <u>Animation</u>

- <u>Comedy:</u> dark, romantic, screwball, sentimental, slapstick

- <u>Drama:</u> biography, historical, melodrama,

- <u>Horror:</u> monster, psychological thriller

- <u>Musical</u>

- <u>Mystery</u>: courtroom, detective, film noir

- <u>Romance</u>

- <u>Science Fiction</u>

- <u>Western</u>

Cinematography & POV

- <u>Cinematography:</u> the art of taking moving pictures   types of shots

- <u>Point of View (POV):</u> the perspective of the camera eye JAWS

- <u>Omniscient POV:</u> see the action as an observer, set at a distance, moved by director

- <u>Subjective POV:</u> see the action through the eyes of one of the characters

Film Editing

- <u>Postproduction:</u> when the film is given its final shape through the editing process and the addition of sound effects and music

- <u>Shot:</u> uninterrupted length of film

- <u>Cut:</u> precise moment when one shot ends and another begins

- <u>Editing:</u> shots created during production are joined together

- <u>Crosscutting:</u> alternating between shots from two or more sequences
  - Switching between the rescuer and the person being rescued Godfather

- <u>Montage:</u> section of film made up of several brief shots edited together in order to show a condensed series of events montage example