

SESSION 2: Characters & Plot that express Theme And Amazing Questions to Go Deeper

1. Choose characters and plot events that express your story's theme.

What is your story REALLY about? What is your MESSAGE? What are you trying to say?

Ted Baehr, Movieguide, said, "It's okay to have an agenda. Everyone else in Hollywood does."

Don't be afraid to put the Gospel in your movies. Or your Christian worldview.

Characters must have an Arc = Change

If your character has the feel that they already know something and want to press that knowledge on the rest of the world – your character will be preachy. Back them up before they knew what they now know. Now, how did they learn that?

2. Amazing questions to go deeper. Make your story more profound.

Some of these questions are adapted from **PlotControl.com**, a software program that helped me and I recommend.

What is this story really about? = THEME

Act 1:

What significant event is happening to your Main Character? That points to Inciting Incident.

First half Act 2: What does the Main Character do to resolve that situation?

Now what? – Midpoint

Second half Act 2: What does the Main Character do for their second try?

What does the main character want? Indicates Theme.

Wants outwardly?

Wants vs. what really needs inwardly?

How does the relationship between the Main Character and each of the subplot characters relate to the Theme?

List details about your main character specifically relevant to the story. This is Characterization.

List details about the setting that is specifically relevant to the story. This is Setting.

Additional Questions from Dianne:

What needs to happen to the character for her/him to learn what they need to learn?

How strong is your Antagonist?

What's at stake for your Main Character? Raise the stakes! (Cary Solomon)

Resources:

- Plot Control <https://www.plotcontrol.com/> If you're interested in purchasing this software, please let me know so I can share my affiliate link with you. Thanks.
- *MovieGuide.org* See very bottom of page for newsletter signup. Also, see founder Ted Baehr's screenwriting books.