

Summary–Writers Guild Meeting March 17, 2021

Beat Plot Structure

Craft Session Discussion topics

- Aristotle's story structure
 - Pity, Fear, Catharsis
 - Beginning, Middle, End
 - Three Act Structure
- Other structure models* followed Aristotle's
 - Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey
 - LOCK Structure Finally leading to the Beat Plot Structure
 - The Three C's of Story

*(Handouts on the Website concerning these subjects are: Narrative Arc, Plot and Structure, and The Essentials of Story)

- Why is knowing the mechanics of structure and plot important?
 - A guide – Record – Troubleshooting tool, when something goes wrong.
- In her video, Shanelin Bishop led us through the fifteen beat sheet explaining what is theoretically going on at each beat.
- Sharon and Linda each read one of their stories and as a group we identified the beats in those stories.
- Observations:
 - One way to think of the beat plot structure is to consider that a story is music, a melody with a cadence. Enter a ballerina, who moves through a series of choreographed steps (BEATS) and at each step presents a well-disciplined form that entertains and holds our interest throughout the song.
 - It was surprising how easily we were able to identify most of the beats. At times, the dividing lines between Beats become obscure and the element described under each beat can move up or down to join adjacent Beats.
- Everyone should do the exercise. Sharon's story ("Reflections and Mirrors") is in Anthology IV "Those Moments" page 37. Linda's story has not been published yet.
 - Do the exercise, it will teach you something that makes you a better writer.

–Charles