Cinematic Storytelling

Manipulates emotion  
Reveals plot and character  
Movies are mostly about “story”  
Source of media story conventions
From “300”
Based on Frank Miller's graphic novel
Loosely based on history
480 B.C. Battle of Thermopylae
Spartans (300) vs Persians (170,000)
What makes this work?
Hollywood level production values
sound, image, casting, effects
*the story
plot, characters, conflict, rising tension, climax
and theme/message
Symmetry—meaning?
Powerful music
clarity of sound
black and white and color—why?
age progression
each frame a photograph
Documentary

Fascination with reality

People, places, events, issues ........

**Creative** treatment of actuality ..........Grierson

“In Feature films the director is God. In documentary films God is the director” ..........Hitchcock
From “Man on Wire”
Man on Wire

High level of production

not Hollywood-esque

but much is re-creation--blurs line between fiction and non-fiction

set up as a “caper” -- “Ocean’s Eleven” the model

music and mix excellent

story is real -- but hard to believe

very interesting character(s)
Universal Mirror
Livo and Rietz (edited)

- Through "story" we can transcend the experience of daily living and know ourselves as more enduring than the little occurrences than mark our individual existences.
- Inside "story" we can accept pain, find justice, and experience exaltation, love, humor............life.....death............
- Meet amazing characters
Susan Boyle

viral phenomenon

British “Idol”

“rags to riches” story

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lp0IWv8QZY
Susan Boyle
Susan Boyle

Story with:

plot--the unexpected, ordinary woman becomes star

conflict--with ordinary life, with doubters, with Simon

characters--protagonist, antagonist

"never been kissed", homely, golden voice

“evil”, (Simon) stands in her way

exaltation

transcend everyday experience
Another look at Susan Boyle

Transform the story

parody

Use the same characteristics in different way

touch us differently
“The Power of Susan Boyle”

http://www.susan-boyle.com/video/Jimmy-Fallons-show-skit-The-Sus
“The Power of Susan Boyle”

Jimmy Fallon

pokes fun at all of us moved by Susan Boyle

Plot

characters

premise

Same Story---with a twist
Narrative Meaning
Denning (www.stevedenning.com/What_story.html)

Stories thrive on:
- conflict
- struggle/danger
- difficulties,
- inconsistencies,
- the very fault lines of society.

We respond to:
- people like us
- situations we might experience
- bravery
- excellence
- oddity