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
In the Hudson
In the Hudson

Captain Sully lands in Hudson River

use of actuality and recreation

conflict

tension

difficulties

reality powerful, real characters amazing

grace under pressure

we can see ourselves in this situation
How Pilots Should Talk

Why we laugh
juxtaposition--even if we hadn’t heard Sully
connection to terrorism
voice is accurate
slice of reality--interpreted
Universal Mirror

Livo and Rietz

• When we enter into "story" we find the story inside ourselves.

• Inside "story" we can recognize and understand our own motivations, because we are the people in the stories
Non-Traditional Storytelling

Jonathan Harris

http://www.number27.org/ (harris's work)

Artist

Computer scientist

Storyteller

Internet Anthropologist

scours the Internet for unfiltered content, which his beautiful interfaces then organize to create coherence from the chaos.
Non Traditional Storytelling
Jonathan Harris
Non Traditional Story Elements
Harris--We Feel Fine

Storyteller
makes tools for others to tell their stories
not his stories
gaps
race, religion, $, age, education
but we have commonalities
on is the need to tell stories--express self
people leave footprints online
Non Traditional Story Elements
Harris--We Feel Fine

I feel, I am feeling..........
groupings of “data”
7.5 million feelings so far
murmurs, montage, mobs, mounds
the Humanity of the web
Seeking connections
Many ways of looking
Passive observation
honest and moving
Non Traditional Storytelling
Jonathan Harris-The Whale Hunt
Non Traditional Story Elements
Harris--the *Whale Hunt*

Elements--some are like traditional Aristotelian
Characters
Concepts
Place-context
Some are different
Colors—*(what looks like)*
Time/dates
Excitement level
Non Traditional Story Elements
Harris--the *Whale Hunt*

No narrator--no one to tell us how to experience the story

Wants to reflect the complexity of life

Where we make the choices

Manipulate/choose

characters, concepts, place, colors, date/time, excitement

level

Interactive Storytelling
Harris--Bhutan-happiness
We see daily routine and mundane circumstance transformed into something profound.

"Story" takes the ordinary and binds it into all of human existence, revealing the significance of the trivial.

It is us in the stories.................
Non Traditional Examples

Animation

FRENCH ROAST

the Pumpkin Factory
FRENCH ROAST
FRENCH ROAST

Animated Film

Language matter?

Characters

Man, Nun, Bum, Waiter

Theme?
3D Documentary
Ryan
by Chris Lambeth
Ryan

Life of Ryan Larkin

examines reality through 3D visual fantasy

“psychological realism” -- Lambeth

no motion capture, rotoscoping, live action footage

Academy Award Nomination

Ryan on welfare, panhandles for food

How did it happen?
Traditional Narrative Structure

Aristotle 350 BC

- “a well constructed plot”
- nothing new
- we are “hardwired” to expect the traditional
- it’s in all media
- Fiction and non-fiction
Traditional Story Elements
Aristotle

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Not necessarily all elements
Traditional Elements

Things are clear

generally linear

beginning, middle, end

We recognize the hero

We can follow the events

We understand the theme

We feel the resolution