Stories take all forms and lengths

Legend has it that Hemingway was once challenged to write a story in only six words.

His response?

“For sale: baby shoes, never worn.”
In 2006, SMITH Magazine began asking readers for their own six-word memoirs.

They sent in short life stories in droves

the bittersweet (“Cursed with cancer, blessed with friends”)

poignant (“I still make coffee for two”)

inspirational (“Business school? Bah! Pop music? Hurrah”)

hilarious (“I like big butts, can’t lie”).
Before Kids, when I was alive.

Still in love with that shitweasel.

Disliking philosophy and TA isn't hot.

Formerly Purchasing, now chase escaped llamas.

Wasn't supposed to survive. Joyfully did.
Cinematic Storytelling

Manipulates emotion

Reveals plot and character

Movies are mostly about “story”

Source of media story conventions
From “300”
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
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=9lpoIWv8QZY
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
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