Traditional Story Elements

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
Exposition/Beginning

• Begin Powerfully/interestingly
• Setup--often in beginning
• Info needed to follow the story
• who, what , where, when, why
  • just enough..........
• usually in beginning
• Can be sprinkled throughout--usually is
Exposition
from “Three Kings”
Exposition/Context

- dialogue
- narration
- visually
- Sound/music
- text
Three Kings “exposition”
We learn........

• “feel” of the desert war
• characters
  • their situations
  • the hierarchy
• hints at the storyline
• “media war”
The Middle--Narrative Spine--the Train

- What moves the story forward
- Sometimes called “the Train”
  - move train forward and then detour for
    - further exposition
    - characters
    - explanation/understanding
The Train
Compelling Characters and Story Development
in The Killer Within
The Killer Within

- Journey to tell family and university
  - this is the narrative spine
- we learn about his story
- we see reactions
- we begin to see behind his exterior
  - flat
  - hiding
- Storyteller gradually reveals....................
the most important element?

Characters

Ramsley

- strong, engaging, and believable characters
- we will come to care about, root for, despise, or even hate.
Inglorious Basterds
opening scene
Character Development
Ramsley

- we see the story as characters who show up and do things
- characters best reveal themselves through the course of events
- what they do more than what they say
- “business”
- how they say what they say............
- Some exceptions--The Fog of War (Robert McNamara--mostly talk