Short Film Analysis Handout

***In a Heartbeat* (2017)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Sherwin, a shy ginger haired boy, arrives at school awaiting the arrival of the handsome Jonathan. Sherwin hides in a tree and watches as Jonathan walks by reading a book and eating an apple. Suddenly, Sherwin's heart begins to beat rapidly and becomes anthropomorphic, leaving his body and chasing after Jonathan. Sherwin attempts to grab and hide his heart resulting in various awkward encounters with Jonathan. Eventually, Sherwin chases his heart inside the school and grabs it. Then the heart grabs Jonathan's finger. The situation becomes uncomfortable as other students see the two and look on in disdain. The heart breaks in two and Sherwin runs away with one half. Outside the school, Sherwin sits solemnly when Jonathan walks up and sits next to him. They join the heart back together and it happily springs to life. The scene fades to black with Sherwin and Jonathan's hearts glowing and they form into one.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Who’s my protagonist? **Sherwin, a shy ginger haired boy**

What’s the main exposition my audience needs to know? **Sherwin has a crush on Jonathan**

What’s my protagonist’s problem (inciting incident)? **Sherwin’s heart becomes anthropomorphic, leaving his body and chasing after Jonathan; he needs to get it back before Jonathan notices**

What’s my protagonist’s conscious want (external overarching desire)? **To get heart back/keep heart away from Jonathan**

What’s my protagonist’s unconscious need? **To not be embarrassed/shamed for liking Jonathan**

What’s my antagonistic force (who has the opposing desire)? **The anthropomorphic heart**

What obstacles stand in the way of my protagonist’s desire? Is there escalation? **Yes, the various awkward encounters with Jonathan get progressively more awkward; the heart gets closer to J**

What’s at stake for my protagonist? Are they “life or death” for the character? **Public humiliation and scrutiny; yes, at that age in school those can feel like “life or death”**

Does my problem from earlier get answered in the climax? **Yes, Sherwin can’t stop his heart. The heart grabs Jonathan's finger. The situation becomes uncomfortable as other students see the two and look on in disdain. The heart breaks in two and Sherwin runs away.**

What’s my resolution? **Sherwin sits solemnly when Jonathan walks up and sits next to him. They join the heart back together and it happily springs to life.**

What’s my deeper meaning (theme) that my climax/resolution clarify? **Love is love is love; it doesn’t matter what people/society thinks, just follow your heart**

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**Short Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**My short’s synopsis:**

Who’s my protagonist?

What’s the main exposition my audience needs to know?

What’s my protagonist’s problem (inciting incident)?

What’s my protagonist’s conscious want (external overarching desire)?

What’s my protagonist’s unconscious need?

What’s my antagonistic force (who has the opposing desire)?

What obstacles stand in the way of my protagonist’s desire? Is there escalation?

What’s at stake for my protagonist? Are they “life or death” for the character?

Does my problem from earlier get answered in the climax?

What’s my resolution?

What’s my deeper meaning (theme) that my climax/resolution clarify?

1. Bravo, Esteban and Beth David, directors. In a Heartbeat. YouTube, In a Heartbeat Animated Short Film, 31 July 2017, www.youtube.com/watch?v=2REkk9SCRn0. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “In a Heartbeat (Film).” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 22 Oct. 2017, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In\_a\_Heartbeat\_(film). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)