

Three-Act Structure

IB Film

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In the Film "Life Just Happens", the setup is treated in such a way that it lasts up until about a quarter of its runtime. During this, we are presented with a character who "lives a pretty average life". His friend, however, lives an amazing life with an amazing girlfriend. This raises the question of act one: How will the protagonist start his love life?

Then comes Act Two, or the conflict: a girl with beautiful hair moves into the house next door. The action that the protagonist takes to solve this is to deliver Pizza to her house, and then to ask her out. But the climax follows: the girl turns out not to be a girl, but a boy with long hair! This can also be related to another aspect of Act Two: the action that the protagonist takes to solve the conflict ends up making things worse. So he decides to take action a second time: ask out the boy's sister, who turns out to be pretty and nice.

The resolution is pretty straightforward: he asks her out and she accepts. The film then jumps forward in time to show them happy together. The protagonist has solved the conflict: he has no more reason to be jealous of his friend.