

Script 5

How Do Character and Themes Affect Our Connection With Personal Stories

Part 1: Characters

In inspiring personal stories, audiences are captivated when they are able to connect with the main character.

But what does it mean “to connect”? Do we have to be the same age, gender, religion or ethnicity, or to live at the same time or in the same country as the character?

NOT AT ALL!

The most basic way to connect with characters is the fact that they are people, just like us, who want to live happily.

We all want to be loved and respected, to affirm ourselves, to feel well physically and psychologically. We need to feel accepted, we want to be able to grow and to be recognized. We need to achieve our full potential to get a sense of fulfillment.

But, we can notice that for some characters, it is never that easy to just live a simple life. There always seems to be some kind of conflict or obstacles separating them from their goal.

As an audience, we want to know HOW these characters are going to deal with their obstacles.

And just like that, we are captivated, not by the characters, but by their story.

Knowing that a story is true makes it more inspiring, because we’re thinking: “What would I do in that situation?” or “How would I react if this happened to me?”