

Pre-Production: Linear Story

GENERAL INFO

Your name: Nikki Tibbett

Story idea # 1: Linear

Beginning / Exposition:

A great fish happily swimming in the deep.

Middle / Complication:

The great fish (whale) moves to the surface and encounters a boat, ultimately swallowing Jonah. Jonah is in his belly for three days and three nights, engaging in various activities. Meanwhile, the fish becomes progressively sicker and sicker, greener and greener with each passing day.

End / Resolution:

The great fish spits Jonah up on dry land, feeling much better afterwards, and swims away.

CREATIVE BRIEF

What must it be? Animated film: Stop-motion or frame by frame animation.

Who is it for? The book of Jonah is a novelette, often told as a popular children's story. It holds significance in three major religions: in Judaism it is read during Yom Kippur, it is part of the Christian Old Testament and taught in Sunday School; and it is also retold in the Quran. This story is for anyone who is familiar with Jonah's tale and for those who enjoy children's stories, as it takes a spin on an old narrative, entertaining for children and adults alike.

How long must it be? The piece needs to be short and captivating, 3 minutes maximum,

What is your objective with the piece? The objective is to flip the perspective on this popular piece of literature, and create a new level of irony in a story that is often described as having, "ludicrous contrast and incongruities." The goal is to invoke curiosity about the tale and explore the outrageous nature and meaning of the original story.

When is it due? Two weeks.

What is the overall idea? The overall idea is what a great fish/whale may experience if they were to swallow a person and have them inhabit their belly for 3 days and 3 nights.

What is the storyline summary? Happy fish, sad swallow, happy spit.

Elevator pitch: The tone begins with a great fish/whale happily swimming in the deep. The drama increases as the whale unexpectedly swallows a man leading to conflict as the whale gets sicker and sicker as the man lives in his belly. Finally, the great fish spits out the man on dry land, causing him to feel much better. The reader thinks about this crazy fish experience and is piqued to think deeper about the original tale and connection between man, animal and creator.

Tagline: *A Whale of a Tale.*

Look and feel description: The animation is centered around various shades of blues and greens found under water, creating a magical or fanciful atmosphere. If hand-drawn, the whale will be painted in watercolors to enhance its appearance. However, if done in stop-motion various textures will be used, like flannel and the various pieces will be cut out and placed on a felt board, reminiscent of the Christian tradition of Sunday School lessons.

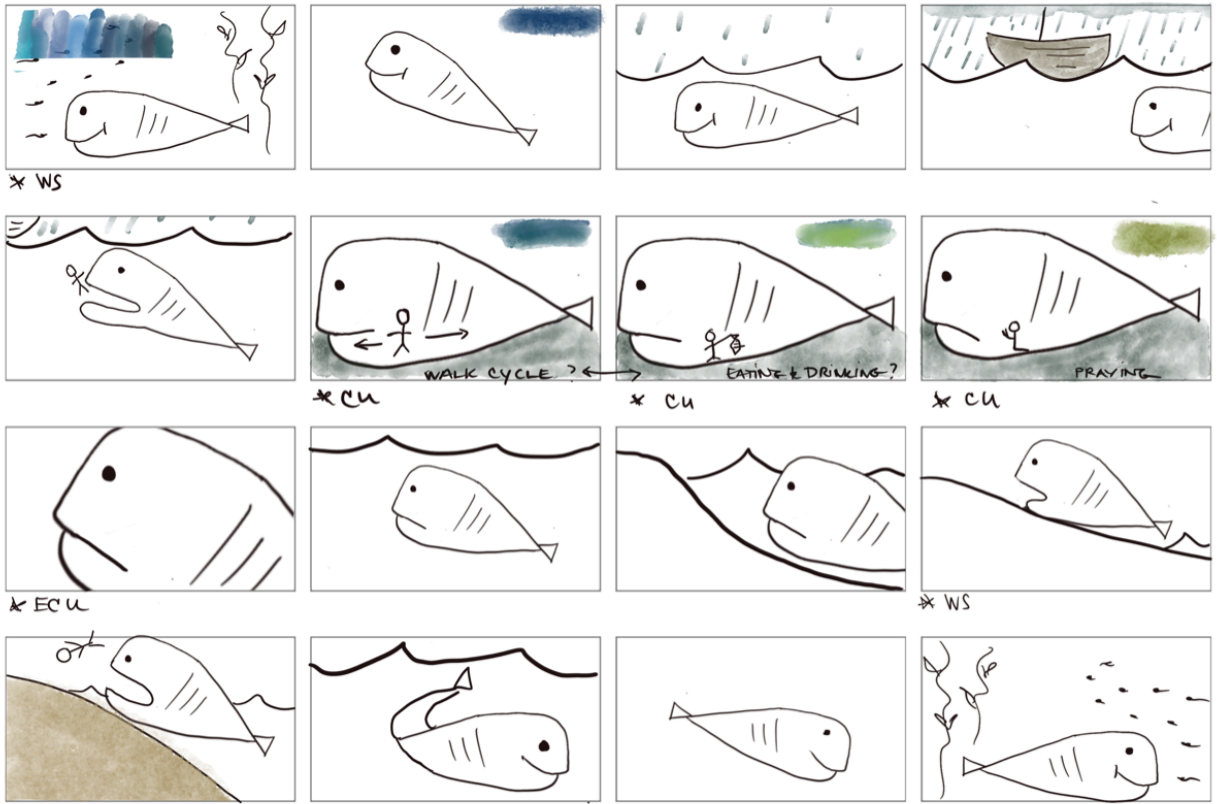
Identify classic plot. Ex: Good vs Evil / Overcoming the Monster, Rebirth and Redemption, Rags to Riches, Role Reversals, Buddy Stories, Love Stories, Quest / journeys / Voyage and Return, Ship of Fools, The Rebel / Life Against the Grain, Coming of Age, or "Other" (explain):

The book of Jonah is most often regarded as a satirical novel and the main character Jonah taking a fantastical journey. When we flip the story, the focus shifts to the perspective of the whale who also has an outlandish experience in the great deep. Although still on a journey this new narrative may best fit in what Kurt Vonnegut describes as, Which Way is Up, as the story has ambiguity and inconclusiveness.

The flipped story raises the questions: Is it a bad thing that the whale swallowed Jonah? Was the whale called by God? The flipped story makes the speculation that carrying Jonah around in the deep created discomfort in the fish, and he felt better after 'spitting' him up.

The question becomes, why tell the story from the whale's perspective, is this about the whale? Is this about God, Jonah, or humanity? The story leaves a bit of underlying ambiguity, like the original text. One might wonder, is it meant to be funny, real, or imagined? Is it meant to have deep meaning and create increased reflection towards the Creator who has deep power over creatures of the deep? Or is simply to add more irony to an ironic tale. Shifting the focus from self-centered Jonah to the hapless whale, leaves the viewer with uncertainty, like the end of the book of Jonah, we are left to wonder.

STORYBOARDS



"A WHALE OF A TALE"