



1. KWL Chart

What do you know about the Holocaust? (List)

What information do you want or need about the Holocaust?

What have you learned about the Holocaust?

K

W

L

When did it take place?

Who was involved?

Why did it happen?

What was the result?

How could it have been prevented?

Why did the Germans threaten the Jews the way they did?

THE PIANIST

Film Study Notes

The Beginning or Introduction:
**(Everything that occurs before the
inciting incident)**

Review these terms: setting or location, visual images, background, foreground, inciting incident, conflict.

How did the film begin? What visuals were used during the titles? What about the opening scenes? Describe what you saw and discuss why you think the film began in this manner.

What was the music like in the beginning? Background? Foreground? Was it subtle or did it stand out? Make your notes here about the music.

After viewing this section of the scene:

1. Describe the setting or location in the opening scene. What do we first learn about the family in this film?

2. What is the inciting incident?

3. What conflict is developing? Who wants what? What stands in the way or what do you think will stand in the way?

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Film Study Notes

***The Body of the Film:* (Everything that occurs between the inciting incident and the climax)**

Review these terms: climax, crisis, resolution.

Describe any scenes that you remember from the middle of the film. Record your notes here.

What was the music like during the body of the film? Describe the sounds? How was it used? Describe any sounds that stood out here.

After viewing this section of the film:

1. Describe the settings or locations for the middle of the movie. Has it changed since the opening? What details stood out in this section of the film?

2. Name the different crisis (or turning points) for the main character: Chart below if you wish.

3. List any complications of the plot. How has the plot thickened?

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Film Study Notes

The Ending or Conclusion:
(Everything that occurs after the conflict)

Review these terms: Pan, tilt, tracking, boom, zoom, cut, fadeout/in, dissolve, wipe, high angle, low angle, close-up, medium shot, long shot, extreme close up.

What visual images are you left with at the end of the film? Describe them. How effective were they?

What was the music like in the ending? Describe the sounds? How was it used? Background? Foreground? Was it subtle or did it stand out? Make your notes here.

After viewing the ending of the film:

1. Describe the closing. What details stood out?

2. What was the climax of the film?

3. What conflict was resolved, if any? Who got what? Who won at the end of the film? Who lost?

8. The director says he was moved by the book upon which this film was based. “Szpilman was objective, not sentimental,” he commented. “He showed Poles who were good and those who were wicked, Jews good and wicked, Germans good and wicked....What effect does this have upon this film? Discuss.

9. Discuss the following quotes from the film:

Wladyslaw Szpilman: I don't know how to thank you.

Captain Wilm Hosenfeld: Thank God, not me. He wants us to survive. Well, that's what we have to believe.

Wladyslaw Szpilman: It's an official decree, no Jews allowed in the parks.

Dorota: What, are you joking?

Wladyslaw Szpilman: No, I'm not. I would suggest we sit down on a bench, but that's also an official decree, no Jews allowed on benches.

Dorota: This is absurd.

Wladyslaw Szpilman: So, we should just stand here and talk, I don't think we're not allowed to do that.
