

# Movies and Their Uses

(arranged alphabetically by literary element)

This is a list of some literary elements and other points that you might want to cover in your class. Paired with each literary element is a list of movie titles that might be helpful in illustrating that point. Some entries below explain which parts of the movie you should look for, but even those that don't specify "the last ten minutes" or "the opening credits" or "the part right after the mud scene" still should not be used in their entirety. Use PARTS of these movies, or of any movie, to illustrate a particular point... and then move on.

## **Allegory**

Narnia, Matrix

## **Allusion**

300, Matrix

## **Archetypes**

Narnia, Excalibur, Princess Bride,

## **Characterization**

Breakfast Club, Cinema Paradiso, Dead Poets' Society, Facing the Giants, Juno, Napoleon Dynamite, The Natural, Phantom of the Opera, Pleasantville, Pride and Prejudice, Princess Bride, Steel Magnolias, Truman Show

## **Coming of age**

Cinema Paradiso

## **Dysptopia**

Joe vs. Volcano, Matrix, Pleasantville, Truman Show, The Village

## **Flashback**

Cinema Paradiso

## **Foreshadowing**

300, Jumanji/Zathura, Phantom of the Opera

## **Internal conflict**

Spider Man 3 and other superhero films

## **Irony**

Breakfast Club, Pride and Prejudice, Princess Bride, Truman Show

## **Mythology**

300, Excalibur

## **POV**

300, Princess Bride, Truman Show

## **Protagonist/antagonist**

300, Village

## **Reveal something difficult to visualize from the written**

Diary of Anne Frank (1959)

## **Setting**

Chronicles of Narnia, Cinema Paradiso, I Am Legend, Pleasantville, Pride and Prejudice, Steel Magnolias, Truman Show

**Suspense**

300, Breakfast Club, Day after Tomorrow, Diary of Anne Frank (1959), Facing the Giants, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Jumanji/Zathura, Phantom of the Opera, Star Wars (episode 4)

**Suspense/Climax Bits/Freytag's Pyramid**

Abyss, Diary of Anne Frank (1959), Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Jumanji/Zathura, Star Wars (episode 4)

**Symbolism**

300, Chronicles of Narnia, Excalibur, Matrix

**Symbolism of title**

Steel Magnolias

**Theme**

A Knight's Tale