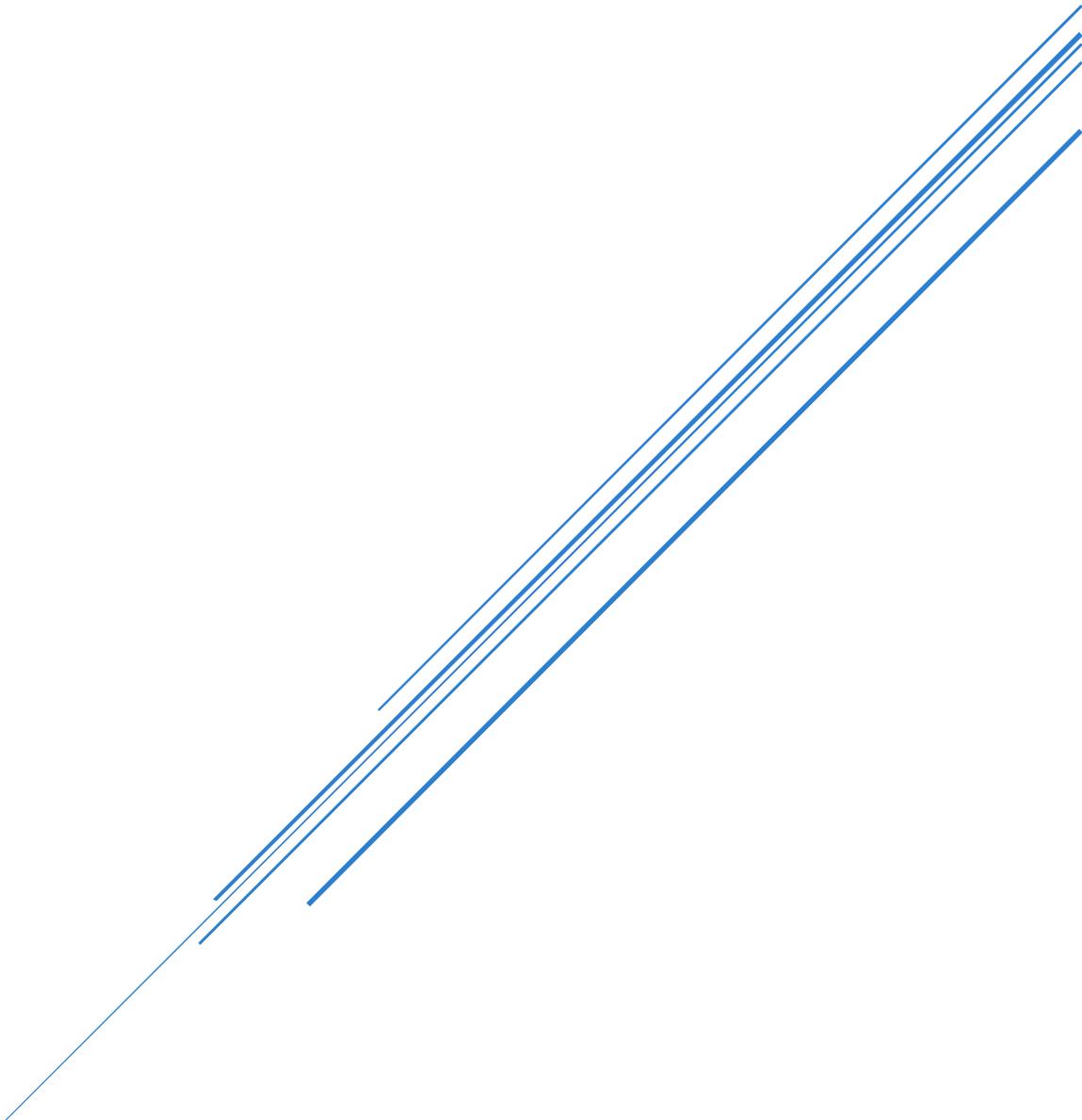


SCREENPLAY COVERAGE SAMPLE

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SCREENPLAY COVERAGE SAMPLE

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SAMPLE COVERAGE REPORT

This document demonstrates the type of screenplay analysis writers receive when ordering **Screenplay Coverage & Story Analysis**.

The purpose of this sample is to illustrate:

- the evaluation system
- the structure of the report
- the depth of narrative analysis

The example below analyzes the classic film:

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

Based on the novel by

Ken Kesey

Screenplay by

Lawrence Hauben

Bo Goldman

DISCLAIMER

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest is widely recognized as one of the greatest films ever made. The film achieved extraordinary critical and cultural success, winning the five major Academy Awards and becoming a landmark in cinematic history.

This coverage is presented purely for **educational purposes**.

The film itself does not require development analysis in the traditional sense. Instead, it serves as an example demonstrating how professional screenplay coverage can examine the narrative structure, character dynamics, and thematic architecture of an already successful story.

The purpose of this document is to illustrate **how story analysis works when applied to a masterwork of cinematic storytelling**.

Package: PRO Feature Film Analysis

Date: —

Page Count: 135

Genre: Psychological Drama

Analyst: **Olena Chepurna**

WHAT WRITERS GAIN FROM THIS ANALYSIS

Professional screenplay coverage is not simply about judging a script. Its purpose is to reveal **how the story functions internally** and how it can become stronger.

Through this analysis writers gain clarity about several critical elements of their screenplay.

Structural Clarity

The report identifies how the narrative unfolds across acts, including the inciting incident, midpoint escalation, and final resolution. Understanding these structural mechanics helps writers recognize where tension rises, where momentum slows, and how the story can maintain stronger narrative flow.

Character Dynamics

The analysis examines how the protagonist, antagonist, and supporting characters interact within the story system. By understanding character functions, writers can strengthen motivations, relationships, and emotional stakes.

Thematic Focus

Every powerful story communicates a deeper idea. This report explores how themes emerge through character behavior, visual storytelling, and narrative consequences rather than exposition.

Dramatic Conflict

Stories are driven by conflict. The analysis highlights the core dramatic tension within the screenplay and examines whether that conflict escalates effectively throughout the narrative.

Audience Experience

The report also considers how the story is perceived by the audience — whether the pacing maintains engagement, whether emotional beats land effectively, and whether the ending delivers a satisfying resolution.

SCRIPT EVALUATION SUMMARY

CATEGORY	SCORE
Presentation	5 — Excellent
Unique Voice / Premise / Concept	5 — Excellent
Structure / Plot / Pacing	5 — Excellent
Characters / Dialogue	5 — Excellent
Theme / Style / Tone	5 — Excellent
Cultural / Historical Impact	5 — Excellent

SCREENPLAY COVERAGE

Title: **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest**

Writer: Lawrence Hauben & Bo Goldman

Based on the novel by Ken Kesey

Genre: Psychological Drama

Tone: Darkly satirical, tragicomic, emotionally intense

1. LOG LINE

A rebellious convict pretends to be mentally ill to escape prison labor and is transferred to a psychiatric hospital, where his defiance against the authoritarian Nurse Ratched inspires the patients to rediscover their individuality — but the struggle for freedom ultimately leads to tragic consequences.

The premise establishes a powerful dramatic conflict between an individual and an institutional system. The story relies less on complex plot mechanics and more on character dynamics, psychological tension, and moral stakes.

2. CENTRAL CONFLICT

The central conflict of the film emerges from the ideological struggle between two opposing forces.

On one side stands **Randle McMurphy**, a rebellious individual who embodies spontaneity, personal freedom, and resistance to authority.

Opposing him is **Nurse Ratched**, who represents institutional control, psychological discipline, and the suppression of individuality.

Their conflict is not merely personal but symbolic. It reflects a broader tension between **individual identity and systemic conformity**. As the story progresses, this confrontation intensifies through a series of psychological power struggles that ultimately lead to tragic consequences.

3. GENRE & TONE

The film blends psychological drama with elements of dark comedy, creating a distinctive tonal balance.

Much of the humor emerges from McMurphy's irreverent personality and his refusal to conform to the rigid routines of the institution. However, these comedic moments gradually reveal deeper emotional tensions within the ward.

The tonal progression moves from playful rebellion to psychological confrontation and ultimately to tragedy. This balance allows the film to explore serious themes while maintaining emotional engagement for the audience.

4. TARGET AUDIENCE & MARKET POSITION

At the time of its release, the film primarily appealed to adult audiences interested in character-driven storytelling and socially conscious drama.

Its themes of institutional authority, conformity, and individual freedom resonated strongly with the cultural climate of the 1970s.

Today the film occupies a permanent place in cinematic history and is frequently studied in film schools as a powerful example of character-centered storytelling and narrative design.

5. STORY STRUCTURE (ACT ANALYSIS)

Act I — Setup

The story begins with the arrival of Randle McMurphy at a psychiatric hospital. McMurphy is a charismatic criminal who pretends to be mentally ill in order to avoid the harsh conditions of prison labor.

The hospital environment is quickly established as a rigid institutional system governed by strict routines and psychological authority, primarily enforced by Nurse Ratched.

The inciting incident occurs when McMurphy begins to challenge the established order. His playful defiance disrupts the carefully controlled environment of the ward and introduces tension between himself and Nurse Ratched.

This conflict becomes the central dramatic engine of the narrative.

Act II — Confrontation

The second act explores the escalating psychological battle between McMurphy and Nurse Ratched.

McMurphy gradually transforms the atmosphere of the ward by encouraging the patients to laugh, question authority, and rediscover their sense of individuality. Through his rebellious behavior, he becomes a catalyst for emotional awakening among the patients.

One of the most significant sequences occurs during the fishing trip, when McMurphy temporarily removes the patients from the institution and exposes them to the outside world. This moment symbolizes freedom and demonstrates how deeply the institutional environment has suppressed their confidence.

However, the conflict intensifies when McMurphy realizes that his stay in the institution could become indefinite. This revelation transforms his rebellion from playful resistance into a desperate struggle for autonomy.

Act III — Resolution

The story reaches its emotional climax following the tragic breakdown of Billy Bibbit. After experiencing a brief moment of newfound confidence, Billy is psychologically crushed when Nurse Ratched threatens to inform his mother about his behavior.

Billy's suicide reveals the devastating consequences of psychological manipulation within the institution.

In response, McMurphy violently attacks Nurse Ratched and is subsequently punished through lobotomy.

In the final sequence, Chief Bromden discovers McMurphy in a vegetative state. In an act of mercy, Chief suffocates him and then fulfills McMurphy's earlier symbolic attempt by lifting the hydrotherapy fountain and throwing it through the window, escaping the institution.

The ending transforms personal tragedy into a powerful moment of liberation.

6. PROTAGONIST ARC

McMurphy begins the story as a self-interested rebel seeking an easier prison sentence.

Over time, however, his presence awakens a sense of courage and dignity among the patients. Although he never consciously sets out to become a revolutionary figure, his actions ultimately inspire others to challenge the institutional system.

By the end of the story, McMurphy's rebellion transforms him into a symbolic catalyst whose influence extends beyond his own fate.

7. SECONDARY CHARACTERS & FUNCTION

The supporting characters represent different psychological responses to institutional authority.

Chief Bromden embodies silent observation and eventual liberation. Billy Bibbit represents emotional vulnerability and the destructive power of shame. Dale Harding reflects intellectual repression, while Cheswick illustrates suppressed frustration and anger.

Together these characters create a portrait of individuals who have internalized the system's control, making McMurphy's influence even more significant.

8. THEME & MESSAGE

Primary Theme

The central theme of the film is the conflict between **individual freedom and institutional control**.

Secondary Themes

- conformity vs individuality
- psychological manipulation
- dignity and self-respect
- the personal cost of rebellion

Rather than presenting these ideas through explicit exposition, the film communicates its message through character behavior and symbolic storytelling.

9. DIALOGUE

The dialogue feels natural, authentic, and deeply character-driven.

Each patient speaks with a distinct voice reflecting their psychological state. McMurphy's confident humor contrasts sharply with Billy Bibbit's nervous stutter, reinforcing the emotional dynamics within the ward.

The dialogue often blends humor with emotional vulnerability, supporting the film's tragicomic tone.

10. VISUAL STORYTELLING

The hospital itself functions as a powerful visual metaphor for institutional control.

The sterile interiors, locked doors, and rigid spatial arrangements reinforce the oppressive atmosphere of the institution. In contrast, the fishing trip visually represents freedom and the possibility of life beyond the hospital walls.

The hydrotherapy fountain becomes a recurring symbolic object representing strength, resistance, and ultimately liberation.

11. PACING & RHYTHM

The pacing of the film is deliberately measured.

Rather than relying on rapid plot developments, the story builds tension through gradual psychological escalation. This approach allows the audience to fully observe the evolving power dynamics between the characters.

The slow rhythm enhances the oppressive environment of the institution while making the emotional climax more powerful.

12. ORIGINALITY & COMPARABLES

At the time of its release, the film stood out for its bold exploration of institutional power and psychological control.

Comparable films exploring similar themes include *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Dead Poets Society*, and *Girl, Interrupted*, all of which examine the struggle between individuality and controlling systems.

13. STRENGTHS

The film's greatest strengths include its unforgettable protagonist, one of the most iconic antagonists in cinematic history, and a powerful ensemble of supporting characters.

The narrative successfully balances humor and tragedy while delivering a timeless thematic message about freedom, dignity, and individuality.

14. WEAKNESSES

From a structural perspective, the film contains very few weaknesses.

Some modern viewers may perceive the pacing as slower than contemporary storytelling conventions, but this deliberate rhythm contributes significantly to the psychological realism of the narrative.

15. OVERALL IMPRESSION

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest remains one of the most powerful examples of character-driven storytelling in cinema.

The film demonstrates how a relatively simple narrative framework can generate profound emotional impact when supported by strong characters and thematic clarity.

16. FINAL VERDICT

RECOMMEND

Rating: **Exceptional / Classic**

The film represents one of the most enduring achievements in cinematic storytelling and remains a masterclass in character dynamics and thematic narrative design.

CONCLUSIONS

The structural power of the story lies in the gradual escalation of psychological conflict between McMurphy and Nurse Ratched throughout the second act.

Rather than relying on external action, the film builds dramatic tension through power dynamics, emotional pressure, and character transformation.

The final act delivers a devastating yet liberating conclusion, demonstrating how stories centered on human dignity and freedom can resonate across generations.

WHAT WRITERS RECEIVE

Each screenplay coverage report includes:

- professional evaluation table
- full structural analysis
- character arc breakdown
- thematic analysis
- dialogue evaluation
- visual storytelling analysis
- pacing analysis
- development notes

Average report length: **8–15 pages**

The goal is not simply to judge the script but to help writers understand **how their story works and how it can become stronger.**

STORY ANALYSIS METHOD

The **Olena Chepurna Story Analysis Method** focuses on three core elements:

Structure

How the narrative unfolds across acts and turning points.

Character Dynamics

How protagonists, antagonists, and supporting characters drive the story.

Theme

The deeper meaning that gives the narrative emotional resonance.

This approach helps writers see their screenplay not only as a script but as a **complete storytelling system**.

ANALYST'S PERSONAL REFLECTION

Reading *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* once again reminded me why certain stories remain timeless. Beyond its powerful structure and unforgettable characters, the film reveals something deeply unsettling about systems of authority and control.

While watching the story unfold, I found myself returning to a simple but striking metaphor: **whoever puts on the white coat first becomes the doctor**.

In the world of the hospital, authority is established not necessarily through wisdom or compassion, but through symbols of institutional power. The uniform itself becomes a marker of legitimacy. Yet the film quietly suggests that those who appear to be “in control” may not be the healthiest individuals in the room.

At times it feels as though Nurse Ratched is, in many ways, more psychologically rigid than the patients she supervises. Her need for order, discipline, and emotional suppression becomes its own form of pathology. The patients, despite their fragility, often show moments of honesty, vulnerability, and even courage that the institution itself cannot tolerate.

This inversion of roles creates one of the film's most powerful underlying ideas: the line between sanity and madness may be far more ambiguous than society prefers to admit.

Stories often reveal a simple but uncomfortable truth:

the person wearing the white coat is not always the healthiest person in the room.

In *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, the institution claims to cure illness, yet the system itself appears deeply diseased. The patients struggle with vulnerability, fear, and trauma — but Nurse Ratched represents something more disturbing: a rigid belief that control is more important than compassion.

For me, the film ultimately becomes less a story about a psychiatric hospital and more a meditation on **power, conformity, and the fragile nature of human freedom.**

McMurphy's rebellion ends in tragedy, but the spirit he awakens in others proves that individuality cannot be completely extinguished by any system.

Stories like this remind us that cinema is not only entertainment. At its best, it reveals uncomfortable truths about the structures we live within and challenges us to question them.

Olena Chepurna

Screenwriter | Story Analyst

Great stories reveal not only characters — they reveal the systems that shape human behavior.