Same Story → Different Medium; Different Story?
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• We will discuss how a story created for a particular medium can be translated into a very different medium.

• Plays
• Films
• Graphic Novels
• Novels
Same Story → Different Medium; Different Story?

- **Plays**
  - Based on a script, performed on a stage.

- **Films**
  - Based on a screenplay, performed on a screen.

Both are based on a script to be performed, and are incomplete without performance.
Same Story ➔ Different Medium; Different Story?

• Graphic Novels
  • Based on paper, performed on the page.

• Novels
  • Based on paper, performed on the page.

Both of these are complete art forms in themselves.
Same Story ➔ Different Medium; Different Story?

• Plays adapted into Films
• Both are based on scripts to be performed.
• Film scripts are usually 180 words a page.
• Formatted to become 1 page = 1 minute.
  1 hour of screen time  =11,000 words.
  3 hours of screen time  =33,000 words.
Same Story → Different Medium; Different Story?

1 page = 1 minute.

INT. DON'S OFFICE - DAY

Hagen is alone in the office. He is drinking. He looks up at the sound of cars; the caporegimes are arriving. Then he hears footsteps.

The door opens and in a robe with slippers, Don Corleone slowly enters the room. He walks directly to his stuffed armchair and sits down. His face is stern as he looks into Hagen's eyes.

DON CORLEONE
Give me a drop of anisette.

Hagen rises, and pours a glass for the old man.

DON CORLEONE
My wife was weeping before she fell asleep, outside my window. I saw my caporegimes to the house, and it is midnight. So, consigliores of mine. I think you should tell your Don what everyone knows.

HAGEN
(quietly)
I didn't tell mama anything. I was about to come up and wake you and tell you. Just now.

DON CORLEONE
But you need a drink first.

HAGEN
Yes.

DON CORLEONE
Now you've had your drink.

Pause.

HAGEN
They shot Sonny on the Causeway. He's dead.

Don Corleone blinks. One feels that just for a second...
Same Story → Different Medium; Different Story?

Macbeth (play) = 18,000 words.
Movie (1948) 107 mins = 19,000 words
BBCTV (1982) 146 minutes = 26,000 words

Hamlet (play) = 32,000 words.
Movie (1948) 155 minutes = 28,000 words
BBCTV (1980) 212 minutes = 38,000 words
Julius Caesar Act 3; Scene 2
Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar...

Julius Caesar (1953)
Marlon Brando stars in a fiery, passionate adaption, with plenty of off-screen in-fighting.
Same Story $\implies$ Different Medium; Different Story?

- **Novels adapted into Films**
  - Novel: *Pride & Prejudice* = 121,000 words.
    - Movie: (2005) 127 minutes = 22,000 words. (1/6)
    - BBCTV: (1995) 327 minutes = 59,000 words. (1/2)
  - Novella: *Brokeback Mountain* = 10,700 words.
    - Movie: (2005) 134 minutes = 24,000 words. (*2)
Same Story ➞ Different Medium; Different Story?

• Novels adapted into Films

  Novel: Lord of the Rings = 473,000 words.
  Movies: 11.5 hours = 124,000 words. (1/4)

  A Song of Ice and Fire totals 1,770,000 words.
  Game of Thrones TV: Each series is 10 hours.
  All 6 series=60 hours (except the last one...).
  TV Total = 650,000 words. (1/3)
Same Story ➔ Different Medium; Different Story?

- Will someone name their favourite adaption?
- Will someone name their least favourite adaption?
- Does anyone know what a novelisation is?
Same Story ➔ Different Medium; Different Story?

• A novelisation is a derivative novel that adapts the story of a work created for another medium, such as a film, TV series, comic strip or video game.

• Why does this pile of nonsense exist?

*written by Alan Dean Foster
Same Story ➔ Different Medium; Different Story?

• Potential Issues with Film Adaptions

• What to cut out/change.

  Wiseguy (BOOK) to Goodfellas (FILM): Pileggi & Scorsese collaborated on the screenplay. They decided which sections of the book they liked and put them together like building blocks.

• Possible solutions to length/actor availability/different media/financial considerations & other issues:

  Combine minor characters into 1 main character.
  Change gender of character.
  Change age of character.
  Change appearance of character.
• Little Women: Jo March; “was very tall, thin, and brown, and reminded one of a colt, for she never seemed to know what to do with her long limbs, which were very much in her way. She had a decided mouth, a comical nose, and sharp, gray eyes, which appeared to see everything, and were by turns fierce, funny, or thoughtful.”

• 1994 Movie Adaption:
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• Wiseguy: Tommy DeVito;
• Goodfellas: Joe Pesci;

• Tommy DeVito was 29.
• Tommy DeVito was 6’2”.

• Joe Pesci was 46.
• Joe Pesci was 5’4”.
The stale coffee is boiling up but he catches it before it goes over the side, pours it into a stained cup and blows on the black liquid.

EXT. MONTAUK TRAIN STATION
Joel talks on a payphone. The wind howls around him. He tries to shield the mouthpiece as he talks. His speech is a self-conscious mumble, especially difficult to hear over the elements.

JOEL
Hi, Cindy. It's Joel. Joel. I'm not feeling well this morning. No, food poisoning, I think. I had clams. Clams! I'm sorry it took me so long to call in, but I've been vomiting a lot. I've been vomiting! Yes, that's right, a lot!
Screenwriting Rules: Show, don’t tell

• Thelma & Louise
  “Packing for their journey”
  Shows differences in character

• Goodfellas
  The social structure is not explained, but is implied and reinforced by the camera’s framing, adding to the script’s intent.
Same Story ➡ Different Medium; Different Story?

• Graphic Novels adapted into Films
  • Graphic Novels translate into screenplays page for page.
  • 2 hour movie is 20,000+ words.

  • Watchmen, at 411 pages, became a 162 minute movie.
  • (411 pages of script would be a 7 hour movie!)

  • Sin City, at 550 pages, became a 124 minute movie.
    (550 pages of script would be a 9 hour movie!)
Same Story $\rightarrow$ Different Medium; Different Story?

- Graphic Novels adapted into Films
- Movies begin as a script, and become storyboards.
Same Story ⇒ Different Medium; Different Story?

• **Script to Graphic Novel to Film**
  
  Most commonly used as a new way of selling a screenplay that was always intended to be made into a film. The screenplay usually retains its original identity.

  • Graphic Novels & Film are related, so this can work very well.
  
  • But, changes are still made...
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• **Novels:** Performed on the page.
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Same Story \ ⇒ \ Different Medium; Different Story?
• What do you think?