

FOOLSCAP GLOBAL STORY GRID – © Shawn Coyne

GLOBAL LEVEL STORY	GLOBAL GENRE		
	External Genre: Society - Domestic		
	External Value at Stake: Power		
	Internal Genre: Worldview - Disillusionment		
	Internal Value at Stake: Belief		
	Obligatory Scenes: An Inciting threat to the reigning power. Protagonists deny responsibility to respond. Forced to respond, Protagonists lash out according to their positions in the power hierarchy. Each character learns what Antagonist’s object of desire is. Protagonist’s initial strategy to outmaneuver Antagonist fails. Protagonist, realizing they must change their approach to turn the power tables, reaches an All Is Lost moment. The Revolution Scene. The core event of the Society story, when the Protagonists’ gifts are expressed and power changes hands. The Protagonists are rewarded at the extra-personal, interpersonal, or personal level. (See Editor’s 6 core questions for how these are met)		
	Conventions: There is one central character with offshoot characters that embody a multitude of that main character’s personality traits. Big canvas. Either a wide scope external setting (Ragtime) or the internal landscape (Long Day’s Journey into Night). A clear revolutionary Point of No Return. The moment when power shifts must be clearly defined and dramatized. The vanquished are doomed to exile. The power divide between those in power and those disenfranchised is large. Ironic, win-but-lose, lose-but-win ending. (See Editor’s 6 core questions for how these are met)		
	Point of View: First person from Tita’s great-niece.		
	Objects of Desire: Tita wants to marry Pedro and have a family. She needs to set aside the conception of morality that her mother has instilled in her, recognizing her mother as a flawed individual and herself as a person capable of choosing her own path.		
	Controlling Idea/Theme: Children in oppressive families gain power by recognizing their parents as flawed individuals.		
BEGINNING LEVEL HOOK		External Charge	Internal Charge
	Inciting Incident: Causal, Pedro asks for Tita’s hand in marriage.	+	+
	Turning Point Progressive Complication: Active, Mama Elena denies Pedro’s request to marry Tita because of family tradition that the youngest daughter must care for her mother and never marry, but offers him her oldest daughter Rosaura instead.	-	-
	Crisis: Best bad choice, should Tita withdraw from the family to spare herself the pain of seeing Pedro with Rosaura or do the duty that Mama Elena has set for her and help prepare for their wedding?	?	?
	Climax: Tita obeys Mama Elena and makes the wedding cake.	-	+
	Resolution: Tita’s magic awakens and she discovers that Pedro loves her.	+	+
MIDDLE LEVEL BUILD		External Charge	Internal Charge
	Inciting Incident: Causal, Mama Elena sends Pedro, Rosaura, and their child Roberto to San Antonio, where the baby dies, and she exiles Tita from the ranch for blaming her for the death.	-	-
	Turning Point Progressive Complication: Revelatory, Mama Elena dies and Rosaura announces that Esperanza will not be able to marry.	+	-
	Crisis: Irreconcilable goods, should Tita choose her own freedom and marry John, or sacrifice her own happiness to stop Rosaura from perpetuating the family tradition by prohibiting Esperanza from marrying?	?	?
	Climax: Tita accepts John’s marriage proposal but starts an affair with Pedro.	+	+
	Resolution: Tita believes that she has become pregnant and must give up her family life as well as her marriage to John.	-	-
		External Charge	Internal Charge
	Inciting Incident: Causal, Tita confronts Mama Elena’s ghost and declares her hatred for Mama Elena.	+	-

ENDING G PAYOFF	Turning Point Progressive Complication: Active/Revelatory, Mama Elena's ghost burns Pedro and shocks Tita, causing menstruation and revealing that she is not pregnant.	-	+
	Crisis: Best bad choice, should Tita reveal her infidelity to John or keep it a secret and marry him, essentially repeating her mother's mistakes?	?	?
	Climax: Tita reveals that she has been unfaithful to John, who resolves to marry her anyway if she wants to.	-	+
	Resolution: Tita stays at the ranch to see to Esperanza's upbringing, and she is able to see Esperanza married to John's son Alex before she and Pedro die in a fire.	+	-