

FOOLSCAP GLOBAL STORY GRID – © Shawn Coyne

GLOBAL STORY GRID			
GLOBAL STORY	GLOBAL GENRE		
	External Genre: Love > Courtship		
	External Value at Stake: Love > Hate		
	Internal Genre: Worldview > Maturation		
	Internal Value at Stake: Naivete > Sophistication		
	<p>Obligatory Scenes: LOVE STORY: Lovers meet (pre-story: Simon contacted Blue through creeksecrets tumblr; in person they meet at the end at the carnival); First Kiss/intimate connection (email; first kiss skipping school during lunch); Confession of Love (Simon: “I know you. I don’t know your name, but I know who you are. I’m glad we got to know each other from the inside out.”); Lovers break up (Bram quits emailing when he thinks Simon likes Cal); proof of love (Simon: Text-Meet me at the carnival.” Blue: Bram gets on the Ferris wheel, risking motion sickness); Lovers reunite (Simon and Bram meet at the carnival)</p> <p>WORLDVIEW: Inciting incident/challenge (secret emails discovered; blackmailed); protagonist denies responsibility to respond to opportunity/challenge (Simon plays into Martin’s hand instead of owning identity); forced to respond, protagonist lashes out a/g req to change behavior (Simon lashes out a/g family and friends, unfair to have to “come out” as gay but not as straight); protagonist learns what external obj of desire is (Martin wants to date Abby); Protagonist’s initial strategy to outmaneuver antagonist fails (Simon tries to protect Blue but cannot convince Abby to like Martin); all-is-lost moment: protagonist realizes must change their black/white view of the world to allow for life’s irony (after losing status at school by being outed and losing best friends temporarily, Simon also loses Blue, who believes he likes Cal); Action moment when protagonist’s gifts are expressed as acceptance of a perfect world (Simon, a white kid, admits his bias in not considering Bram, a black guy, as lover. Simon apologizes for not being good friend to Leah); loss of innocence rewarded w/ deeper understanding of universe (Simon challenges default assumption is “white and straight”).</p> <p>Conventions: LOVE STORY: Secrets (Blue and Simon’s whole relationship is a secret. Simon is an Elliot Smith fan and Blue gets him an Elliot Smith shirt. Blue’s stepmom is pregnant); triangle (Martin-Simon-Blue, Martin-Simon-Abby, Nick-Leah-Abby, Simon-Abby-Leah, Simon-Blue-Cal); rivals (Simon: Martin; Leah: Abby; Blue: Cal, Martin, Peter at gay bar); social conventions/obstacles (coming out is a huge deal, requiring an announcement, none required for straight relationship; gay guys can’t hold hands in rural Georgia);</p> <p>WORLDVIEW: Strong mentor figure (Blue & Abby coach him as he comes out to his family and world); Big social problem as subtext (<i>homo sapiens</i> agenda: homophobia/LGTBQ+ issues; racism); shapeshifters as hypocrites (Simon lies about who he is; family supports him but hurts him w/ insensitive comments a/b gay people); a clear “point of no return moment” (Martin outs him to the school and his family, endangering Blue as well); ironic win-but-lose, lose-but-win bittersweet ending (Simon gets the guy, but is outed on another’s terms and endures some bullying at school).</p>		
	Point of View: 1 st person (Simon) / Narrative Device: Epistolary (emails)		
	Objects of Desire: Love & belonging; Simon wants to have a relationship with Blue and find belonging in his family & school as an “out” gay person. He needs to come out to know himself and his friends on a deeper level. He needs to acknowledge his own biases towards a love relationship.		
	Controlling Idea/Theme: LOVE and FRIENDSHIP prevail when Simon ACKNOWLEDGES who he is, as well as his prejudice to a “default” in a mate and his lack of depth in his friends’ lives.		
	BEGINNING HOOK		External Charge
Inciting Incident (causal/coincidental): Martin finds Simon’s and Blue’s flirty emails. (coincidental)		-	+
Turning Point Progressive Complication (Act/Rev): Martin wants Simon to hook him up with Abby, the cool new girl. (Act)		-	-
Crisis (BBC/IG): Will Simon help Martin “land” Abby, or risk himself and Blue being outed? (BBC)		?	?
Climax: Simon invites Martin to a Halloween party with Abby.		-	-
Resolution: Simon and Blue admit to liking each other over email.		+	+
MIDDLE BUILD		External Charge	Internal Charge
	Inciting Incident (causal/coincidental): Simon comes out to Abby. (causal)	+	+
	Turning Point Progressive Complication (Act/Rev): Martin outs Simon on “creeksecrets,” the anonymous tumblr.	-	+
	Crisis (BBC/IG): Will Simon come out to his sisters and parents, or will he deny Martin’s words? (IG)	?	?
	Climax: Simon comes out to his family and Leah and Nick, unhappy that he has been forced into it.	+	-
Resolution: Leah is angry at him for telling Abby first. Blue is not Cal; Blue stops	-	-	

	talking to Simon because he thinks he likes Cal.		
ENDING PAYOFF		External Charge	Internal Charge
	Inciting Incident (causal/coincidental): Abby and Nick take Simon to a gay bar without Leah. Simon gets drunk and is grounded. (causal)	-	-
	Turning Point Progressive Complication (Act/Rev): Simon finds Blue's number attached to the Elliot Smith shirt he gave him two weeks before.	+	+
	Crisis (BBC/IG): Will Simon pursue Blue by text? (IG)	?	?
	Climax: Simon invites Blue to the fair. Bram shows up, proving his love by getting on a Ferris wheel that will make him sick.	+	-
	Resolution: Simon realizes his bias towards white guys and that he has not been a good friend. He apologizes to Leah. He and Bram become "Facebook official."	+	+