



LOGLINE!

ABOUT

This is a storytelling game you can play in your head, by yourself. All you need is 5 minutes and your imagination.

Your goal is to come up with a "logline" - a story idea summarized in 1-2 sentences.

You can use this game to pitch ridiculous movie ideas just for fun, or to brainstorm adventure ideas for roleplaying games.

PREMISE

Come up with a premise using either one of these methods:

1. X meets Y. Take two movies you like, and combine them. What if the story of the first movie took place in the world of the second one? What would happen if you swapped their plots, characters, settings, genres?

"**Shrek**" meets "**The Cabin in the Woods**". What if Shrek's hut was the creepy cabin where a horror movie takes place?

2. Flip the Premise. Take a movie you like, and reverse the idea. What if the good guys were the bad guys and vice versa? What if the opposite of the main idea was true?

Reverse "**Terminator**". What if instead of robots from the future, we were visited by the robots from the past?

LOGLINE

Come up with the 4 key story elements:

- **Setting** - where does the story take place?
- **Hero** - who's the protagonist of the story?
- **Objective** - what does the hero want (a problem they need to solve, or goal they want to achieve), and why (what's at stake, what makes this objective important to the hero)?
- **Opposition** - what makes this objective difficult to achieve, who or what stands in the way (obstacle or an antagonist)?

And pitch the story in a couple of sentences.

You may use one of these logline templates:

In a [setting], a [hero] must [objective], despite [opposition].

In a [setting], a [hero] must stop the [antagonist] who wants to [evil plan] at a [location].

In a [setting], a [hero] must obtain [object or information], from a [location] guarded by [antagonist].

In a [setting], there's a [problem]. The [hero] must solve it, otherwise [consequences].

To [help someone in need], a [hero] must go to [destination], and defeat [antagonist].

For example:

"**Shrek**" meets "**The Cabin in the Woods**":

In a world of fairytales, a weary adventurer seeks shelter in an abandoned hut, only to discover that it belongs to a hungry ogre. Will he destroy the beast or get turned into a stew?

Reverse "**Terminator**":

Nikola Tesla uses his time-machine to send his robots to steal modern inventions. A nerdy teen must travel into the past and put an end to this before our timeline irreversibly changes.

BEGINNING, MIDDLE, END

(optional) Like your idea? You can develop it into a more fleshed out story. Describe 3 scenes (each in a 1-2 sentences):

- **Catalyst** - describe a scene that introduces the objective and draws the hero into action. Where does the story begin? How does the hero encounter the problem they must solve by the end of the story?

Sir Loren spends a night in a seemingly abandoned cabin, only to wake up to an angry ogre pounding on the entrance.

- **Challenge** - describe an interesting challenge the hero needs to overcome on the path to their objective. What's one of the steps they need to take to get what they want? What makes this step difficult?

Sir Loren discovers a pit filled with the bones of the other adventurers, and must climb down it to retrieve a sword.

- **Climax** - describe the final, most difficult challenge the hero must overcome to achieve their objective (and face the antagonist or the final obstacle). Where does the climax take place? What will the hero do to accomplish their objective?

Sir Loren tricks the ogre into chasing him to a rickety bridge, cuts the ropes, and the ogre plummets into the abyss.

THAT ONE SCENE

(optional) Improvise the most memorable scene from this movie.

- **Setup:** In 1-2 sentences, establish the location where the scene takes place, what your hero wants in this scene, and a character they're interacting with.

Sir Loren hides under the bed, waiting for a chance to escape the ogre's hut. The ogre prepares a stew (getting ready to add Sir Loren as the final ingredient).

- **Action:** Describe what the hero will say or do to get what they want, come up with a couple lines of dialogue they exchange with the other character.

"Come out, come out, wherever you are," the ogre sing-songs. "I can smell your fear." Sir Loren tosses a pebble across the room.

- **Resolution:** Describe the outcome of the scene. Does the hero succeed and get closer to their goal, fail and suffer some setback, or is there a suspenseful cliffhanger?

Distraction succeeds. "What's that?" The ogre turns to investigate the noise, giving Sir Loren a chance to slip out.

GAME VARIANTS

- **Dumb and Dumber:** Come up with the stupidest story idea you can imagine. Create a combination of the story elements that is as absurd as possible, mix together ideas that don't fit. The stupider - the better!
- **The Sequel:** Pitch a sequel to a movie you've already pitched!
- **Play With a Friend:** A friend gives you a premise, you pitch a logline in one minute. Then, take turns narrating the scenes.
- **Random Tables:** Instead of using movies, try making loglines based on randomly generated prompts - setting, character, and an objective: <https://rpgadventures.io/elements>

LOGLINES

1 **Star Wars:** In a galaxy far, far away, a farm boy must rescue a princess and destroy an evil empire's planet-killing weapon.

2 **Jurassic Park:** On an isolated island, a group of scientists must escape when the dinosaurs they've genetically recreated break free from their enclosures.

3 **The Mummy:** In 1920s Egypt, an adventurer accidentally awakens an ancient cursed priest and must stop him before he regains his powers and enslaves humanity.

4 **The Lion King:** In the African savanna, a young lion prince flees his kingdom after being blamed for his father's murder and must return to reclaim his throne.

5 **Pirates of the Caribbean:** In the Caribbean, a blacksmith teams up with an eccentric pirate captain to rescue the governor's daughter from cursed undead pirates.

6 **Alien:** On a deep space commercial vessel, a crew member must survive after a deadly extraterrestrial organism gets loose and hunts down the ship's crew.

7 **Avatar:** On an alien moon, a marine controlling an alien body falls in love with a native and fights to save her world from human exploitation.

8 **The Lord of the Rings:** In a fantasy world, a hobbit must journey to a volcanic mountain to destroy a magic ring before its evil creator can reclaim it.

9 **The Terminator:** In 1980s Los Angeles, a waitress must survive a relentless robot assassin from the future sent to kill her before she can give birth to humanity's savior.

10 **Finding Nemo:** When his son is swept out to sea, an anxious clownfish embarks on a perilous journey across a treacherous ocean to bring him back.

11 **Coco:** A twelve-year-old aspiring musician enters the Land of the Dead and must find his great-great-grandfather, before he is trapped forever among the deceased.

12 **Harry Potter:** In a hidden world of magic, an orphaned boy discovers he's a famous wizard and attends a magical school while confronting the dark lord who killed his parents.

13 **Shrek:** In a fairy tale kingdom, an ogre must rescue a princess from a dragon-guarded castle to reclaim his swamp, only to fall in love with his unlikely companion.

14 **Men in Black:** In a world secretly filled with aliens, a quick-witted police officer must join a covert agency to stop a disguised alien terrorist from stealing a galaxy contained in a jewel.

15 **How to Train Your Dragon:** On a Viking island plagued by dragon attacks, a chief's misfit son must befriend a feared dragon to stop a war between his tribe and the creatures they hunt.

16 **WALL-E:** On a trash-covered, abandoned Earth, a lonely garbage-collecting robot falls in love with another robot and follows her into space to help bring humans back to their planet.

17 **The Incredibles:** In a world where superheroes are banned, a restless former superhero must secretly return to action to defeat a vengeful fan-turned-villain threatening his family.

18 **Moana:** On a dying Polynesian island, the chief's daughter must sail across the ocean to convince a demigod to help her return a goddess's heart stone and save her people.

19 **Dune:** On the harsh desert planet Arrakis, the heir of a noble house must harness his emerging powers and unite with native warriors to reclaim his family's stolen domain from imperial forces.

20 **Godzilla:** In a coastal metropolis, scientists and military forces must stop a gigantic radiation-fueled monster awakened by nuclear testing before it destroys the city.

LOGLINES

1 **Spies in Disguise:** In the world of spies, a super-spy transformed into a pigeon must work with an awkward teen tech genius to stop a supervillain from obtaining a list of secret identities.

2 **John Wick:** In the criminal underworld, a retired assassin seeks revenge against the son of a mob boss who killed his dog and stole his car, unleashing a war against entire syndicates.

3 **The Walking Dead:** In a zombie apocalypse, a sheriff's deputy must lead a group of survivors to safety while fighting both the undead and other hostile human communities.

4 **Lost:** On a mysterious island, plane crash survivors must find a way home while dealing with supernatural phenomena and evading the island's dangerous inhabitants.

5 **The Mandalorian:** In the lawless outer reaches of a galaxy, a lone bounty hunter must protect a child from remnants of the fallen Empire who seek to capture it.

6 **Monsters, Inc.:** In a city powered by children's screams, two monsters must protect a human child who accidentally entered their world from a rival who plans to kidnap her.

7 **Cabin in the Woods:** In a remote forest, college friends must survive horror monsters unleashed by a secret facility conducting a ritual sacrifice to appease ancient gods.

8 **Honey I Shrunk the Kids:** In suburban America, an eccentric inventor must find his children after accidentally shrinking them to insect size, leaving them to navigate deadly backyard terrain.

9 **The X-Files:** Two FBI agents investigate paranormal phenomena and government conspiracies while shadowy forces work to conceal the truth about alien contact.

10 **Supernatural:** On America's backroads, two monster-hunting brothers search for their missing father while battling demons, ghosts, and other creatures that prey on humanity.

11 **Firefly:** On the fringes of space, a crew of smugglers aboard a transport ship must complete illegal jobs to survive while evading the oppressive Alliance.

12 **Futurama:** In 31st century New York, a pizza delivery boy accidentally frozen for 1000 years must adapt to his bizarre new life while working for an interplanetary delivery company.

13 **Zootopia:** In a metropolis populated by anthropomorphic animals, a rookie bunny cop must solve a conspiracy behind predator disappearances with help from a con artist fox.

14 **Onward:** In a modern fantasy world that has forgotten magic, two elf brothers embark on a quest to fully resurrect their deceased father for one day before a spell expires.

15 **Despicable Me:** In a suburban neighborhood, a supervillain planning to steal the moon adopts three orphan girls as part of his scheme, only to find himself growing attached to them.

16 **Ice Age:** During the prehistoric ice age, a mammoth, sloth, and saber-toothed tiger must return a human baby to its tribe while escaping natural disasters and other predators.

17 **Buffy:** In a California town built next to a hell gate, a teenage girl chosen as the vampire slayer must balance high school life with her duty to protect humanity from supernatural threats.

18 **Hotel Transylvania:** At a resort for monsters, a vampire father must hide a human traveler who stumbles upon the hotel and falls for his daughter, despite his deep-seated fear of humans.

19 **Pokemon:** In a world where people train supernatural creatures, a determined young trainer journeys to become a Pokemon Master while thwarting a criminal organization's schemes.

20 **Fallout:** In post-nuclear-war America, a Vault dweller emerges from underground isolation to search for her father in a wasteland filled with mutants, raiders, and warring factions.