

1. MEET THE HOOVERS (Pages 1 - 5)

- Basement. Olive watches a beauty pageant on TV
- Classroom. Richard lectures: Winners vs. Losers
- Bedroom. Dwayne pumps iron, marks his calendar
- Bathroom. Grandpa snorts drugs.
- Car. Sheryl tells Richard she's not smoking
- Hospital. Frank is depressed; Sheryl picks him up

2. HOME (6 - 10)

- Empty home. Voice mail from Aunt Cindy re: LMS
- Sheryl arrives, puts Frank in Dwayne's bedroom
- Richard comes home; no word from Stan Grossman
- Dwayne tells Frank that he hates everyone

3. DINNER BEGINS / DWAYNE EXPOSITION (11 - 15)

- Dwayne has taken a vow of silence until Air Force
- Grandpa laments chicken dinner, mentions Sunset Manor
- Richard says Dwayne is utilizing 7 of the 9 Steps
- Olive asks Frank why he tried to kill himself

4. DINNER CONTINUES / FRANK EXPOSITION (16 - 20)

- Frank tells Olive why he tried to kill himself
- Olive tells Frank why she is practicing a dance routine
- Richard says there's a message about LMS on phone

5. OLIVE QUALIFIES FOR LMS (21 - 25)

- Olive learns she has a place in LMS contest; goes nuts
- Sheryl calls Aunt Cindy; Cindy can't host Olive
- Sheryl says they'll fly to California, Richard objects
- Richard says he'll drive the VW; they all have to go
- Sheryl promises flight school for Dwayne; he agrees

6. THE PROMISE (26 - 28)

- Richard makes Olive promise she will win the LMS contest
- Richard slaps the table: "We're going to California!"
- Sheryl makes up the sofa bed for Grandpa
- Bedroom. Dwayne asks Frank not to kill himself tonight
- Dwayne scribbles a note to Frank: "Welcome to Hell"

FIRST ACT BREAK

7. ON THE ROAD / GRANDPA EXPOSITION / DINER (29 - 35)

- VW Bus. Grandpa gives "life advice" to Dwayne
- Grandpa backstory - kicked out of old folks home
- Diner. Olive orders ice cream; Richard admonishes her
- Ice cream arrives, others entice Olive to eat ice cream

8. CAR TROUBLE (35 - 40)

- Ext. Diner. Richard calls Stan Grossman, leaves message
- Sheryl tries to drive the VW bus, grinds the gears
- Garage. Mechanic explains how to drive without a clutch
- Family pushes bus; succeed in getting it going

9. RICHARD FAILS / FRANK IS HUMILIATED (40 - 47)

- VW. Frank mocks Richard; Stan Grossman pages Richard
- Gas Station. Richard calls Stan; his face falls
- Frank buys porn; bumps into his old crush, Josh
- Richard says no book deal; Sheryl is furious
- They realize they left Olive behind; retrieve Olive
- Grandpa consoles Richard; says he's proud of him

10. MOTEL (48 - 52)

- They check into motel; Sheryl says, "We need to talk..."
- Dwayne listens to Sheryl and Richard argue; he smiles
- Olive tells Grandpa she's afraid of losing tomorrow
- Grandpa says Olive is trying, so she's not a loser
- Olive goes to sleep; Grandpa goes to bathroom with drugs

11. RICHARD WON'T GIVE UP (53 - 57)

- Richard decides to confront Stan Grossman in Scottsdale
- Richard can't get VW started; borrows a moped
- Richard drives moped to Scottsdale; tracks down Stan
- Stan tells Richard "It's over"; Richard refuses to lose
- Morning. Olive tells Richard, "Grandpa won't wake up"

MIDPOINT

## 12. HOSPITAL (58 - 62)

- Waiting Room. Sheryl says they are a family...
- Doctor tells them Grandpa is dead; summons Linda
- Linda tells Richard they can't leave Grandpa behind
- Richard asks to see remains; Linda escorts them
- Hospital Room. Richard despairs: "Goddammit, Dad..."
- Sheryl tells Olive they'll do LMS next year

## 13. HOSPITAL ESCAPE (62 - 66)

- Richard says they can't give up on LMS; Sheryl objects
- Richard says only losers give up; "What are we here?"
- Sheryl agrees; Frank and Dwayne go outside window
- Smuggle body out of hospital; push VW bus to get away

## 14. PULLED OVER BY COP (66 - 71)

- VW. Driving montage. Time and landscape passing
- Olive asks Frank if there's a heaven; they bond
- Richard honks horn; it gets stuck; Cop pulls them over
- Cop opens VW trunk; finds Grandpa's magazines; departs

## 15. DWAYNE'S FREAKOUT (72 - 77)

- VW. Olive gives Dwayne an eye test; he fails it
- Frank tells Dwayne he's colorblind / can't fly jets
- Richard pulls over VW; Dwayne breaks down
- Sheryl tries to soothe; Dwayne says they're all losers
- Olive silently consoles Dwayne; he apologizes to others

## 16. SPRINT TO THE FINISH (78 - 82)

- VW. Take wrong turn to hotel; desperate driving
- Parking Lot. Door falls off; Frank sprints into hotel
- Pageant Lady says they are too late; Richard begs her
- Kirby offers to register them; Olive will compete in LMS

SECOND ACT BREAK

## 17. THE FAMILY SPLITS UP (82 - 87)

- Olive and Sheryl get in line to meet Ms. California
- Richard asks Kirby is there is a funeral home nearby
- Olive meets Ms. California - she eats ice cream!
- Richard turns over Grandpa's body to funeral Workers

## 18. GATHERING STORM (87 - 91)

- Olive tries on her swimsuit; sucks her stomach in
- Kirby needs Olive's music; she says Grandpa chose it
- Frank sees Larry Sugarman has a NY Times bestseller
- Dwayne says, "Let's get out of here"; Frank follows him
- Auditorium. Richard sits down, meets bored Biker Dad
- MC comes on stage; LMS contest begins

## 19. FRANK AND DWAYNE EPIPHANY (92 - 97)

- Frank and Dwayne get to beach; rent surfboards
- Richard watches pageant; grows increasingly uneasy
- Frank talks Proust; Dwayne says, "Fuck beauty contests"
- Richard realizes Olive can't win; goes backstage
- Frank and Dwayne return; Dwayne goes backstage

## 20. ALL OR NOTHING (97 - 102)

- Richard tells Sheryl he doesn't want Olive to go on
- Dwayne tells Sheryl he doesn't want Olive to be judged
- Sheryl is resolute: "We gotta let Olive be Olive"
- Sheryl gives Olive a choice: "We're proud either way"
- Olive chooses to go forward with her dance routine
- Olive walks onstage; dedicates performance to Grandpa

## 21. CLIMAX (103 - 107)

- Music begins. Olive begins dancing. Everyone shocked
- Pageant Lady tells MC to shut down Olive; he tries
- Richard tackles MC; begins dancing with Olive
- Frank, Dwayne, and Sheryl join the dancing on stage
- Music ends. Biker Dad is appreciative

## 22. DENOUEMENT (107 - 110)

- Family is freed from detainment by Police Officer
- VW. Richard tells Olive Grandpa would've been proud
- Family pushes VW out of parking lot; hit the open road

This is a mock-up of what I call a 4-Page Sequence Outline.

I break down each quarter of the story into 4 to 6 sequences.

Usually, I put this together after I've written a first draft, and update continuously as I rewrite.

I find this the best way to get a clear overview of the story.

They are also helpful in story meetings – giving everyone a map of the script.

Everyone has their own outline process – this is mine.