

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: TEEN FILM

The Teen Genre

The teen genre explores **adolescence** and the issues that young people face growing up. These usually include:

- Peer pressure and bullying
- Trying to fit in and not belonging
- Whether to **conform** or to **rebel**
- First love
- **Conflict** between parents and other **authority** figures

The teen genre often **represents** people in a **stereotypical** way. We usually see certain groups of people:

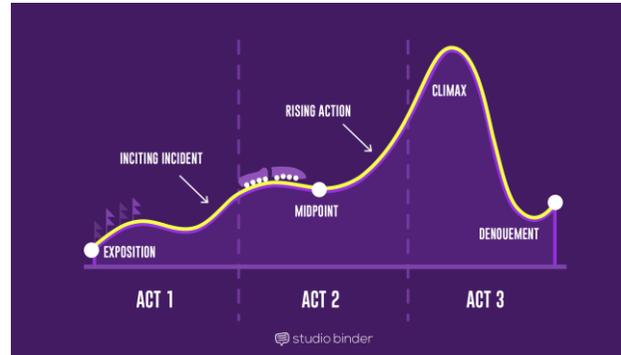
- The Rebel
- The Bully (or group of bullies, usually typically 'popular' students)
- The Girl Next Door
- Parents and authority figures (usually represented in a negative way)

The protagonist of a teen film is usually **The Outsider**. They are presented as different from everyone else; they don't fit in and the film explores their journey.



Narrative

Most stories follow a **three act structure**:



Act 1	Usually used for exposition : main characters, locations and important information are introduced. Something then happens which the protagonist must deal with. This is known as the inciting incident .
Act 2	The rising action shows the protagonist try to resolve the inciting incident. Often they cannot resolve their problems yet because they do not have the skills or emotional development needed to deal with it. The middle of the story then usually has the protagonist learning new skills but also learn about themselves. This is a character arc .
Act 3	The climax , usually at the end of a story, is when the main problems of the story are brought to their most intense point, often through action or an intense meeting. The inciting incident is finally dealt with in some way, with the protagonist and other characters having changed and developed in some way. This is the denouement .

Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning	Image
adolescence	the period of life when a child develops into an adult	
aesthetics	the overall look, style or mood of something	
authority	the power to give orders, make decisions for others or tell them what to do	
character arc	the transformation or inner journey of a character over the course of a story	

climax	The point that a story's tension builds up to.	
conflict	A severe disagreement, battle or struggle between two sides or ideas.	
conform	To follow the rules of something.	
context	Important issues that influence a story.	
convention	The usual way of doing something.	
fourth wall	An imaginary wall that separates the story from the real world.	
exposition	Key background information in a story, usually at the beginning.	
genre	The category or type of something.	
isolation	Being or feeling separated from others.	
materialism	The belief that material possessions matter the most in life.	
motif	A symbolic image or idea that is recurring (repeated) in a text.	
narrative	A series of connected events that are written or told.	
perspective	a way of seeing or thinking about something	
rebellion	Fighting against authority or control.	
representation	Showing a person or group of people in a particular way.	
social commentary	writing about issues in society, usually in a way that promotes social reform	
subvert	To go against what you would usually expect.	
stereotype	A common but often unfair belief about a certain type of people.	
symbol	something that represents or stands for a bigger idea	
The Outsider	A character in a story who does not fit in or belong.	