

The Umbrella Academy

Season 1



Six-Core Questions Analysis

1. What's the global genre?

External Genre: Action (Life and Death) - Man Against State – Saviour

Internal Genre: depending on family members

Luther: Status and/or Worldview Revelation

Diego: Worldview - Maturation in the TV Series. I thought it was Status-Sentimental in the comic book.

Allison: Worldview Revelation or Education?

Five: Morality Redemption (same as in the comic book)

Klaus: probably Worldview

Vanya: Status Pathetic

2. What are the obligatory scenes of the global genre?

Considering 5 is the main protagonist

Obligatory Scenes

- An Inciting Attack by the Villain or Environment: Five sees the End of the World as he traveled into the Future (Episode 1, 2)
- Hero Sidesteps Responsibility to Take Action: Five doesn't tell his UA extraordinary siblings about the end of the world (Vanya in Episode 1, but not Luther in Episode 2).
- Forced to leave the ordinary world, the Hero lashes out: Five becomes delusional believes in Delores and we realize that it takes him decades to return home.
- Discovering and Understanding the Antagonist's MacGuffin Scene: Five understands now that the commission wants the apocalypse to happen because it is meant to happen (Episode 5)
- Hero's Initial Strategy to Outmaneuver Villain Fails: Five left the commission as he was supposed to murder JFK to return to his family to stop the apocalypse (episode 5)

- All Is Lost Moment: Hero realizes he must change his approach to salvage some form of victory: The All is Lost Moment is when they realize that Vanya is going to destroy the world and they may have to kill her to save it.
- The Hero at the Mercy of the Villain Scene: The Core event of the Action story, this is the moment when the hero's gift is expressed: The villain is probably the commission because they want the apocalypse to happen. So it's the moment when Vanya performs and her siblings try to stop her, but the time cops are there too to stop them stop Vanya.
- The Hero's Sacrifice Is Rewarded Scene (extrapersonal, intrapersonal, interpersonal): We don't know the effects of moving all of the UA has on Five, something he has never tried before.

Conventions

- Hero, Victim, Villain: Five is the hero (possibly Diego, Allison, Klaus, and Ben). The victim is the planet as well as all of humanity. The villain is the commission, Leonard Peabody, Vanya.
- Hero's Object of Desire: save the world and his family
- Power Divide between Hero and Villain: Five has his family, the commission has an army of time cops and time itself.
- Speech in Praise of the villain: Hargreaves praise/ fear of Vanya's powers

3. Point of View

Multiple Point-of-View Characters.

4. What are the objects of desire?

The external object of desire for the global story (WANT): The members of the Umbrella Academy want to save the world. (Action)

The internal object of desire for the global story (NEED): The members of the Umbrella Academy need to understand that even though they have grown up, they do not see the person each one of them has become. They need to put their black and white worldview aside and see the shades of grey in each of their personalities. (Worldview)

5. What is the controlling idea/theme?

The world (life) is not saved when the dysfunctional family of superheroes can't come together.

6. What are the beginning hook, middle build and ending payoff?

Beginning Hook:

Years ago, a billionaire adopted 7 children who were born with supernatural powers and created the Umbrella Academy. When the billionaire dies, his remaining disparate children are brought together for his funeral. Two of them are missing: Ben who died in an accident, and Five (a time traveler) who disappeared as a child. Five appears at the Funeral, in the body of a child, and tells them that he has been trapped in the future. Worse, he has seen the end of the world and warns them that they have 8 days until the destruction of the planet. His siblings are all too focused on their own problems to believe him.

Middle Build:

When the Meritech lab is destroyed by an explosion and the last clue to find out who will get the artificial eye is lost, and the Handler returns to offer Five a new job in the Commission, he has to make the decision if he wants to work for the Commission again to let the end of the world happen and save himself (and his family), or try to save everyone by deceiving the Commission by basically gambling with the entire life on the planet?

Five decides he'll work for the Commission again and he receives a new clue to stop the end of the world.

Ending Payoff:

When Vanya almost kills Allison and the family discovers that Vanya possesses dangerous powers, Vanya returns to the mansion for help. The family decides to confine her instead of helping her understand her powers, causing her to lose her mind, escape, destroy the mansion and ultimately destroy the world.