

## Hero's Journey Analysis – "Schindler's List"

### Step 1 Ordinary World

Candles are lit during a Jewish Sabbath

A candle goes out

Smoke becomes the smoke of a train

1:43

Great example of opening image

We will come back to this later

Text on the screen tells us that Jews are being transported to Krakow

Bunch of administrative stuff put down on a table

Bunch of Jews names typed up on a screen

Contrast

We go to Oscar's world

Bunch of nice suits

Ties

Cufflinks

This is a man who lives well

3:50

Plenty of money in a drawer

Puts on a Nazi badge

But we don't see his face

Restaurant

He comes up to the maitre-d who takes money from his pocket

4:44

He sits in a chair in the restaurant smoking

He's watching all the Nazi officers

A table is reserved

He orders drinks for the Nazis

Who shall I say they are from

From me

From the gentleman

Do we know him?

Find out who he is

Intrigue as to who he is

Nazi old guy with young singer

He's sent a guy over to Schindler

The guy sits with Schlinder

The older guy comes to get the younger guy  
 He brings the woman over  
 This is a charismatic guy

He sits watching again  
 Gives money

The Germans are talking about the Jews  
 They won't weather this storm

Schindler is leading them in song

9:17  
 A German in glasses arrives  
 Who is that man  
 Oscar Schindler

GREAT INTRODUCTION OF A CHARACTER

Germans cut Jews hair off  
 10:21

Schindler walks down the street past the Jews  
 Imposing

The Judenrat  
 24 elected Jews assign people to jobs  
 (On screen)

If I take this thing off, what will they do  
 They will shoot me

## **Step 2: The call to adventure**

I am looking for Yitzak Stern  
 Ben Kingsley

12:14  
 Pots and pans company  
 He did the books  
 Can I turn it to making army stuff

He needs money  
 Where do I get the money  
 Jewish investors  
 They can't own the business  
 Get paid in product

They put up all the money  
 I do the work  
 What do you do  
 The presentation

What's unusual here is that the hero is issuing the call to adventure

14:09

### **Step 3 Refusal of the Call**

I don't know anybody who would be interested in this  
Tell them they should be

Again, what's unusual is that it's not the hero that refuses but another character – THE MENTOR figure

14:55

### **Step 4 Meeting with the Mentor**

In the synagogue  
Jews barter

Schindler is in there  
Nice shirt  
Where can I find a nice shirt like that  
It's illegal  
We don't do that  
We're here to pray

How many do you need  
Schindler

So this scene often is about supernatural intervention  
They are here in the house of God

All Jews have to be in the ghetto by a certain date

We see them walking in

A Jew collects stuff from his house  
The Jewish symbol is taken from the door  
Women says goodbye to her home

Schindler arrives  
Goodbye Jews  
Takes over the house  
Smiles  
19:31

Lies in the bed  
As the Jews who have vacated enter their new "home"  
Cramped

It could not be better says Schindler

It could be worse – how could it be worse

So this is more ORDINARY WORLD  
Establishing his character

One of the Jews is working as a policeman  
He is getting well paid

### **Step 5 Crossing the Threshold**

Ben Kingsley – Stern  
Has arranged a meeting with the owners of the business  
Not good enough  
Trade goods that is the only currency  
Things have changed

He did not call the meeting  
Forget the whole thing  
Get out

How can we trust you  
22:34

Schindler (for the second time)  
Offers a drink and Stern declines

The exchange takes place

### **Step 6 Test, Allies & Enemies**

Schindler is told the Jews get paid nothing  
Their salary goes straight to the Germans  
They get paid less than the Poles  
That's why he wants to hire Jews

We are establishing our team here  
He's not hiring Jews because it's humane  
But because they are cheaper

Jews are being sent away who can't work there

Stern is working to make them Essential workers

If they don't have the Blauschein  
He teaches history and literature  
Not essential  
25:00

Stern fakes some documentation for him  
I am a metal polisher

He's saved by Stern

Stern is establishing his credentials as the Mentor figure. Schindler will need to impress this person to win our respect.

26:20

We see how they make this stuff  
The Professor of History and Literature

Watches on – marvelling really

Don't do this or you will get electrocuted  
So all these people aren't skilled at this  
Highly skilled  
So Stern is working to save these people

Stern is the hero at this point  
Keeping us interested until the real hero starts acting like one

Schindler auditions typists  
They aren't doing very well  
One of them is terrible  
But he looks captivated

The best is ugly but smokes  
He has no interest

You have to choose  
He lines up with all of these women  
He hires all of them  
(Except the ugly one probably)

This sequence is often about pulling together teams  
That's what we're doing here.

29:36

Schindler organises catering for the Nazis  
Black market trading for fruit, chocolate, champagne,  
nylon stockings

My pleasure to announce the opening of DEF  
Schindler reads  
It's read by Nazi  
Basket of goods and photo go to all the Nazis

It's now in full operation

The Nazis stamp the orders

Trucks come out of the factories  
A good doctor  
A forgiving priest

A clever accountant

Once again he toasts  
 He forces Stern to toast  
 I'm trying to thank you  
 I couldn't have done this without you  
 The usual thing would be to acknowledge  
 You're welcome

This is saying to us that Schindler has to this point  
 done nothing. Stern doesn't approve of him.

### **Step 7 Approach to the Inmost Cave**

His wife arrives  
 Girl who has stayed is embarrassed  
 You would like her  
 33:41

You've done well here  
 You look wonderful  
 Mrs Schindler

So they have an understanding

At dinner  
 A charade all this  
 He has 350 on the factory floor  
 His father had 50  
 Making money for him  
 His wife is not impressed  
 They won't soon forget the name here  
 Everybody remembers him  
 He did something extraordinary  
 He did something no-one else did  
 He came here with nothing

He has no idea why people will remember him  
 All the riches of the world  
 Nothing has changed, she says  
 There was always something missing  
 It wasn't me  
 You can't create this thing  
 War

We are getting character insight here  
 He's clearly trying to prove something to his father

As he dances with his wife  
 He's looking at another woman

Should I stay?

It's up to you  
 Promise me no-one will assume I'm anyone other than Mrs  
 Schindler and I'll stay

She leaves on a train  
 37:00

The Approach is often related to love – a little light  
 relief before we tackle the tough stuff.

### **Step 8 The Ordeal (the first of many)**

He's with Stern  
 Not interested in the figures  
 Has lunch with wine overlooking the factory floor  
 A worker wants to thank him

38:09  
 A one armed man thanks him  
 Essential  
 God bless you  
 You are a good man  
 He saved my life  
 Yes, he did  
 God bless you  
 Schindler couldn't give a shit

ORDINARY WORLD again – reminding us that this is not a  
 good man.

39:14 Don't do that to me again  
 That man had one arm  
 What's his use  
 Very useful

Important scene to establish character – critical  
 he's still an arsehole.

40:16  
 Jews are stopped and made to shovel snow

The one armed man is shot

Schindler is upset  
 I lost a day of production  
 I lost a worker

The guy challenges Schindler on the metal worker  
 Schindler defends him

Schindler is fucking the girl he saw on the dance floor  
 42:27

Baldeck  
It's about Stern

42:42  
Schindler goes to the station  
Stern is on the list

Schindler asks his name  
My plant manager is on this train  
There is nothing I can do

What is your name  
I think I can guarantee you'll both be in Russia by the  
end of the month

Stern  
Stern  
Stern

Comedy in the midst of this  
Finds him  
Stop the train

Makes no difference to us

Stern had left his card at home  
What if I had got here 5 mins later  
Then where would I be?  
It's still all about him

But is that just a cover  
This has been a life and death moment

Photos  
Shoes  
Watches  
Rings  
Diamonds  
Teeth pulled from people's mouths

47:12  
This has gone to another level – this is deadly

### **Step 9 The Reward**

When was the last time we stood around and talked  
The ghetto is liberty  
So while they have lost their houses  
They are actually coping  
But even this is about to be taken from them

Alternatively, this another ORDINARY WORLD phase.



48:49

We now re-enter an ORDINARY WORLD phase  
 We are meeting Armon Goeth — Ralph Fiennes  
 Ghetto A — essential workers  
 Ghetto B — surplus

Ralph Fiennes  
 Is fucking freezing  
 Doesn't give a shit  
 Comes to camp  
 Complains about the house

One of you is a very lucky girl  
 Which is you has domestic experience  
 He choose someone who hasn't put up her hand  
 Helen  
 51:03  
 He chooses her

A Jewish Engineer woman says the foundation is wrong  
 Needs to be relaid  
 Shoot her  
 We are not going to have arguments with these people

Take it down  
 Repour it  
 Rebuilt it  
 Like she said

Schindler and Fiennes shave at the same time  
 Here is Schindler's shadow  
 53:39

For six centuries a Jewish Krakow  
 No more  
 Today is history

Schindler rides a horse with a woman  
 Contrast

The liquidation of the ghetto  
 55:23

He watches from on high  
 Emphasises that he doesn't need to get involved

THIS IS ANOTHER CALL TO ADVENTURE

The Nazis evacuate and kill

Guy shows Blauschein

They don't care

Baldec's wife says she won't go in the sewers

Stern is almost too slow getting his papers out

Indiscriminate shooting

Poison is being dropped into vials

Given to patients in the hospital

Killing them rather than having to remove them

They smile

They come in and shoot them

Dignified death

1:01:05

Men and Women and children forcibly separated

Jews run down the sewers

Baldec just avoids being shot

Comes up a manhole

Finds a bunch of dead bodies

Comes up to his house

She is gone

Down in the streets

A woman takes a child

But won't take the woman

Hides in a hole

Baldec says he has been assigned to clear the roads

Fiennes laughs

Young boy says to hide under the stairs

He keeps them away

The boy clearly loves the little girl

Come with me I will put you in the good line

Schindler watches and looks troubled

AS he watches on

He sees a little girl in a red coat walking down the street

1:06:34

Watches as they shoot a bunch of people

Death of the Jews in Krakow

Little girl in red hides under a bed

They listen with stethoscopes  
As the Jews emerge from their hiding places  
Guys steps on keys  
Firing continues

As one German plays the piano

Fiennes washes his face  
I wish this fucking night were over

1:10:51  
Oscar's factory is silent  
So this purge has halted his production

Fiennes bare-chested, smoking  
Looks out over the Jews who have come to his camp

He looks around  
And shoots at a woman  
Picks his cigarette up with his mouth  
Shoots another  
Flexes with the rifle behind his shoulders  
Points the gun at his lover

Make us a coffee  
Make it yourself  
Establishing his character ORDINARY WORLD

1:15:08  
CROSSING OF THE THRESHOLD

Schindler comes in to meet everyone  
Fiennes

Where do you get a suit like that  
I'd say I'd get you one  
But the guy who made it is probably dead  
1:16:18

TESTS, ALLIES, ENEMIES  
I go to work  
Everybody is gone  
Nobody tells me  
They're not here  
They are mine  
Every worker who is shot is lost production  
It's bad business

Fiennes thanks Lena  
He clearly likes her

He's told that he understands gratitude  
 You don't want anyone telling you want to do  
 What you want is your own subcamp  
 The trouble he would have to go through  
 I'd be grateful  
 A deal has been struck

1:19:27

Make sure I get my cut  
 Fiennes tells Stern  
 Don't forget who you are working for

This is an APPROACH  
 Bit of a relax before the harder stuff ahead

Party  
 Fiennes is drunk and kissing women  
 Schindler is orchestrating  
 In control  
 He gives wine to the guards

Stern comes to Schindler  
 Gives him the instructions  
 Who needs to be paid off  
 Too hard  
 Too complicated  
 I couldn't get you out of here  
 I will be here every Wednesday

Put these in your pockets  
 Herr Direktor, don't let things fall apart

Stern scratches his head so they think he has lice and  
 will keep their distance

Goeth asks guy  
 What do you make  
 Hinges  
 Have workers coming in  
 Need to make room  
 Make me a hinge  
 He does it and he times him  
 He has made too few hinges  
 Gun won't fire  
 Several times  
 The machines were being recalibrated this morning  
 Second gun won't fire  
 Bashes him  
 But he lives

This is ORDINARY WORLD

1:26:12

Schindler brings a saddle out for Fiennes

Stern comes to see him

Gives him the lighter

With the lighter he bribes his way out to work in the factory

Who stole the chicken?

Shoots a guy

Nobody knows

Boy steps forward

Points at the guy he shot

He's very gifted

The boy goes to work for Schindler

1:29:00

Young woman comes to see Schindler at the factory

He won't see you

CALL TO ADVENTURE and REFUSAL

She reapplies lip stick

Comes in a dress

She comes in to see him

CALL TO ADVENTURE

What can I do for you

They say your factory is a haven

They say you are good

Who says that

Everyone

She is Jewish who's been living on false papers

She begs him

Please bring her parents here

REFUSAL

He says he won't do it

Cry and I will have you arrested

She drops a name

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR - STERN

People die

1:31:52

He's very pissed off

Think you don't know what I'm doing

It's dangerous to me

You have to understand

War brings out the worst in people  
 Always the bad, never the good  
 He's about to make a lie of that

Tells a story that Goeth killed 25 people

Perlman  
 He has done what the woman asked  
 Despite his protests  
 And gives up his watch to secure their services

HE HAS CROSSED THE THRESHOLD

TURNING POINT IN HIS JOURNEY

TESTS, ALLIES, ENEMIES

PARTY

1:35:17  
 Schindler comes down to cellar  
 Talks to Helen  
 I am Schindler  
 He gives her something – chocolate?

She says the first day  
 He beat me for throwing away bones for his dogs  
 Why are you beating me  
 I know your sufferings  
 One day he'll shoot me  
 She says that he shot someone just passing

There are no set rules you can live by  
 He won't shoot you because he enjoys you  
 Won't let her wear the star  
 He kisses her on the forehead

Where does this fit in?  
 It's a bit like a sharing of the elixir

1:39:34  
 A wonderful party  
 You're not a drunk  
 You have control  
 Talk about power and justice  
 Power is when we have every justification to kill and we  
 choose not  
 The emperor pardons him  
 This worthless man  
 He's trying to influence Goeth  
 That is power

SHARING OF THE ELIXIR — OR IT COULD A CALL TO ADVENTURE  
FOR GOETH — which he pursues briefly. The Shadow fails to  
respond.

1:41:55

Nazi people going over Stern's books

Stable boy dropped the saddle  
He would have killed him in the past  
Stern's reaction indicates that he has changed

He rides on a horse

Jews communicating with one another  
He rides past on his horse

She was smoking on the job  
Tell her not to do it again  
This is all Schindler's work

Have been unable to remove stains  
Using soap not lye  
Go on leave  
I pardon you  
Looks at himself in the mirror  
He is the emperor

Does he find some dirt on the mirror?

1:44:45

He fires a shot at him  
Kills him

So he's still a cunt

Helen does his nails  
He's clearly attracted

A couple are married in the camp  
1:46:43

He comes down while she is washing  
If you need a reference after the war  
Must get lonely down here  
Sometimes we're both lonely  
I want to reach out and touch you  
What would be wrong with that  
I realise you're not a person in the strictest sense

1:49:15

When they compare you to vermin

He touches her  
As the singer kisses Schindler

No, I don't' think so  
You're a jewish bitch  
You nearly talked me into it, didn't' you  
He beats her

Goeth has refused the call.

1:51:26  
He is wished a happy birthday by the workers  
He kisses a jewish girl  
Trouble

THIS IS A ROAD HOME scene

A Jewish girl tells a story of a concentration camp  
Gassed them  
They cannot believe it  
It doesn't make any sense  
What sense does it make to kill your workforce  
It can't be true  
We are very very important for them

1:53:50  
Train carriages arrive  
Doctors come out

He has to make room  
Another shipment coming in  
They strip off

The woman prick their fingers  
So they can put blood on their cheeks  
Give themselves some colour

Goeth saves one woman  
Separate the sick from the healthy

A huge group of children comes out  
1:58:38

Some of them run away

The smart little kid makes a run for it

The kids are piled onto trucks and drive away  
Waving

Elation at having survived the cull



Turns to horror as their children are taken away  
2:00:54

Kid tries to find a hiding place  
They are all taken  
He climbs down into a latrine  
Get out  
This is our place

(Amazing scene)

This is a **Resurrection** scene

People piled onto trains  
Why didn't you call me  
Quite a picnic  
2:02:55

Another beautiful day  
Hot  
People suffocating on board the train

What do you say we get the firehoses out and hose down  
the cars  
Where's the fire?  
He laughs  
But then gets up and does it  
More  
More

This is cruel Oscar  
You are giving them hope

He says he has longer hoses  
They all laugh  
But he gets them and hoses the last carriages

They laugh at him  
But he does it

He has water to give them when the train stops

ORDEAL

An SS car pulls up at the DEF factory

2:05:27

They take him away

He's in a cell  
I kissed a Jewish girl

Did your prick fall off  
He just goes along with the joke

Goeth defends him  
He likes women  
He sees a beautiful woman, he doesn't think  
He shouldn't have done it  
They cast a spell on you, the jews  
It's like typhus

A senior Nazi figure comes in  
It's policy now

That's the end of disk one

Goeth ordered to exhume and incinerate all the Jews  
1:57

The party is over Oscar  
They are sending them all to Auschwitz

#### ROAD HOME

We see the body of the little girl in the red coat go  
past – a muddied body  
Oscar alarmed

2:39  
He's put in a special word for Stern  
You'll get preferential treatment  
You ran my business  
I am going home  
I have more money than I could spend  
Some day this is all going to end  
I was ggoing to say we'll have a drink then  
I think I better have it now  
He always refused in the past

This is the road home

#### THE RESURRECTION

A naked woman sleeps in Schindler's bed

His bags are packed  
His home is packed  
He has trunks full of money

He wants his people  
He's going to take his people to Czechoslovakia  
He is going to make artillery shells  
He can't work out how he's going to make money out of it

7:17

He starts making his list  
All the children

How many  
More

We keep hearing the typewriter

Goeth opens his trunk full of money

8:33

How many  
600

More

He approaches another man  
Tries to get him to do it  
He says he won't accept that

How many  
850

that's it  
You can finish that page

What did Goeth say  
You're not buying them  
You're buying them?  
You're paying for them  
Finish the page  
Leave one space at the bottom

The list is an absolute good  
Life all around

He wants to take Helen  
Play a game of 21 for Helen  
He says he wants to take her to Vienna with him  
He can't  
He says he should take her into the woods and shoot her  
painlessly in the back of the head

He agrees to play a game for her

Then we see the people on the list  
Including the little kid

Stern

Helen is there – the last we see

#### THE REWARD

They all pile onto trains  
Guided by Stern

They arrive in Schlinder's home town in Czechoslovakia  
15:45  
He is there to meet them

Schlinder addresses them  
The women's train will arrive shortly  
Only a short walk to the factory  
Welcome

#### THE ORDEAL

The women talk about good things

A kid makes the sign of a slit throat

The train arrives in a concentration camp  
Auschwitz

18:15

They are taken off  
Freezing cold  
Where are the list makers

They are being showered with ash from a huge furnace

20:07

Schindler is not happy  
Their train was routed to the wrong place  
Paper work slip up

Their hair is clipped

They strip off  
They head into showers  
WE look in through a porthole  
Lights go out

Water starts coming out of the shower heads  
Is this a false dawn?  
There is some relief  
Will the gas follow?

No.

The women are lined up outside the barracks  
 The older women are being singled out  
 We are Schindler's jews

#### THE RESURRECTION

A Nazi looks at Schlinder's List  
 He says it's not his job to interfere  
 Why should I interfere  
 He lays out a whole lot of jewels  
 I could have you arrested  
 I am protected by powerful friends  
 He takes them  
 26:30

He says he'll give him 300 units  
 Fresh units  
 He doesn't want them  
 He wants his List  
 You shouldn't get stuck on names

#### THIS IS A BIG SCENES

But the list is actioned  
 27:30

So we've been through an ordeal

This is a resurrection  
 These people were dead

A guard tries to take someone away

28:35

They protest  
 Schlinder interferes  
 These are my people  
 Their fingers polish the inside of a 45mm shell casing  
 Back on the train  
 Back on the train

The train leaves  
 29:38

We watch as Schindler guides his flock into his Czech  
 factory

The men watch and wait

He makes it clear that they can't shoot indiscriminately  
 No summary executions  
 No interference with production  
 Guards no longer allowed on the factory floor  
 For your co-operation you have my gratitude  
 He serves them beer  
 Nazi doesn't look happy about it

32:32

He comes up behind his wife  
 He makes a promise to his wife

He introduces Stern to his wife  
 This is my wife  
 No secrets

We have received complaints from the armaments  
 They are withholding payment  
 Rumour you have been recalibrating the machines  
 They could send us back  
 Ask around  
 Find out where we can buy shells  
 If this factory ever makes a shell that can be fired I'll  
 be very unhappy

Rabbi  
 The sun is going down  
 What day is this  
 Friday  
 You should be preparing for the Sabbath shouldn't you  
 I've got some wine

35:07

A candle is lit  
 Where are back where we came in  
 We have come in full circle

SHOULD SHOW THESE TWO SCENES

The ceremony proceeds  
 The Germans are not happy

Schindler runs out of money  
 Why  
 Am I broke?  
 36:37

Churchill announces the surrender  
 The German war is at an end

Schlinder announces it to the factory

Tomorrow you'll begin looking for your families  
 In most cases you won't find them  
 We've survived  
 Many of you have thanked me  
 Thank yourselves  
 Thank your fearless Stern  
 I am a member of the Nazi party  
 A munitions manufacturer  
 A black market profiteer  
 I will be hunted  
 I will have to flee

You have received orders to exterminate these people  
 Or you could leave and return to your families as men,  
 instead of murderers. And they leave

39:45

The head Nazi guy leaves  
 Schlinder winks at Stern

IN memory of the countless victims  
 I ask us to observe 3 minutes of silence

We linger on people we've met

They take out a filling from a guy's tooth  
 They pour it into a ring

Schlinder packs

He wants cloth distributed to his workers  
 Vodka  
 Cigarettes

WE have written a letter in case you are captured  
 Every worker has signed it  
 Stern gives him a ring  
 It's from Hebrew  
 It says whoever saves one life save the world entire

They shake hands  
 I could have got more out  
 I could have got more  
 There are 1000 people  
 If I'd made more oney  
 I threw away so much money  
 I didn't do enough  
 This car  
 Why did I keep the car  
 10 people right there  
 2 more people

At least one more  
 One more person  
 He breaks down  
 They hug him

HAVE TO SHOW THIS SCENE

He dresses in prison attire  
 And drives out

All these people are alive because of him

SHARING OF THE ELIXIR

47:25

You have been liberated by the Soviet Army  
 Stern speaks to him  
 Have you been in Poland?  
 Are there any Jews left?  
 Where should we go?  
 Not East nor West  
 We could use some food

They move as one across the fields

Goeth is hanged

Schindler failed at his marriage and several businesses

In 1958 declared a righteous person  
 Invited to plant a tree  
 It grows there still

We swtich to colour

Families come and lay stones on his grave

Sharing of the Elixir  
 They are there with their families

His wife is there

Thousands of people are there

Fewer than 4000 Jews in Poland  
 More than 6000 descendants of Schindler jews  
 A rose is laid

Credits

55:46



Step 2 Call to Adventure

Step 3 Refusal of the Call

Step 4 Meeting with the Mentor

Step 5 Crossing the Threshold

Step 6 Tests, Allies & Enemies

Step 7 Approaching the inmost cave

Step 8 The Ordeal

Step 9 Seizing the sword

Step 10 The Road Home

Step 11 The Resurrection

Step 12 Sharing the Elixir