Deep Dive - Whodunnit from “Save the cat.”

Act 1

1. *Opening Image. Before snapshot of hero and world, (doesn’t have to be a flashback)*
2. *Theme stated- Statement made by a character that hints at what the heroes arch will be. That is what the hero must learn or discover at the end of the book. Referred to as the life lesson.*
3. *Set up - Exploration of the hero’s status quo life and all its flaws. Where we learn what the hero’s life looks like before its epic transformation. We also need to introduce supporting characters and the hero’s primary goal. Show the hero’s reluctance to change. Show stakes at risk if the hero does not change.*
4. *Catalyst - Within the first 10% of the book. Inciting an incident or life changing event that happens to the hero that will catapult them into a new world and into a new way of thinking. Action beat that is big enough that does not let the hero return back to the status quo world.*
5. *Debate - Reaction sequence in which the hero debates on what they will do next. Presented in the form of a question. Purpose is to show the hero’s reluctants to change.*

Act 2

1. *Break things into 2. 20% through books. Moment hero decides to accept the call to action and leave the comfort zone, try something new, or venture into a new world or new way of thinking. This moment that separates status quo from act 1!*
2. *The B story. This is the 22% part of the book. Introduction of new character(s) to help the character learn the theme. Also referred to as helper character, love interest, mentor, nemesis, family member, friend.*
3. *Fun and Games 20-50% of the book. We see the hero in their new world. Either loving it or hating it. Succeeding or floundering. Promise of the Promise. This represents the hook of the story.*
4. *Mid Point - Halfway through the novel. Where the fun and games comes into a false victory or a false defeat. Something here needs to raise the stakes and push the hero to the real change.*
5. *This is the part where “all is lost.” The lowest point of the novel. The action beat where something happens to the hero combined with internal flaws that pushes the hero to rock bottom. What does this look like?*

Act 3

1. *This is called break into 3. 80% of novels. Ah ha! Moment. Hero realizes what they must do to not only fix all the problems in act 2, but also fix themselves. The Arch is nearly complete.*
2. *The finale.80-99% of the novel. Hero proves they have truly learned the theme and enacts a plan they learned in break into three. Bad guys destroyed, lovers reunited, flaws are conquered. Not only is the hero saved, it is a better place than it was before.*
3. *Final Image. 99-100% of the book. Mirrors opening image. Snapshot of who this hero is after going through his epic and satisfying transformation.*