

NARRATOLOGY FOR
GAMES

ASSIGNMENT 2-1

ANALYSE A MODERN
COMPUTER GAMEThe image is the cover art for the Resident Evil 3 remake. It features a large, menacing close-up of the Nemesis boss at the top, with its mechanical and organic features clearly visible. Below it, the title "RESIDENT EVIL 3" is written in a large, stylized font, with "RESIDENT" in white and "EVIL 3" in red. At the bottom, the characters Jill Valentine and Carlos Oliveira are shown from the chest up, looking towards the viewer. The background is a dark, cloudy sky with a hint of a sunset or sunrise. There are also some "CAUTION" signs visible in the background.

RESIDENT EVIL 3

This assessment will analyse the Resident Evil 3 remake (Capcom, 2020) (RE3R), delving into the narrative structure and the main protagonist's character development through their relationship with another character. The story follows Jill Valentine as she tries to escape the zombie infested Raccoon City, all the while pursued by the deadly weapon Nemesis.

The developers of RE3R sought to tell a focused narrative, concentrating on Jill's relationship with Carlos "The director really wanted to focus on telling a consistent narrative without leaving the main story open-ended, this allowed us to really focus on telling the story about Jill's escape from Raccoon City while being pursued by Nemesis as well as expand on her relationship with Carlos." (Fabiano, Resident Evil 3 Producer Talks Story Changes, Jill Valentine's New Design, and More, 2020)

Four main characters have been factored into the following subway maps, Jill, Carlos, Nikolai, and Nemesis. These maps highlight important events involving said characters, showcasing where their paths cross as the story progresses (Fi.g.1-3).

Figure 1. Subway map RE3 narrative part 1

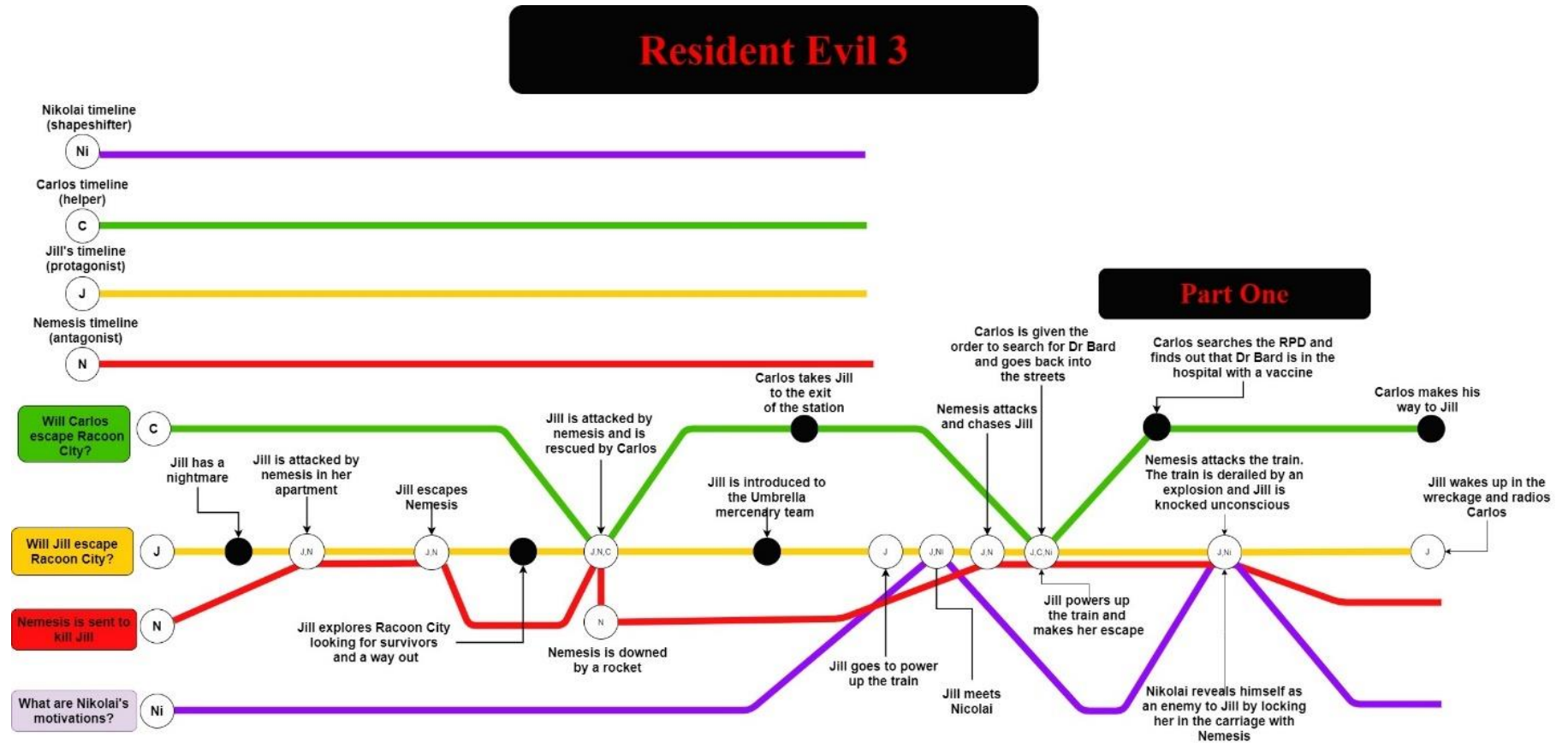


Figure 2. Subway map RE3 narrative part 2

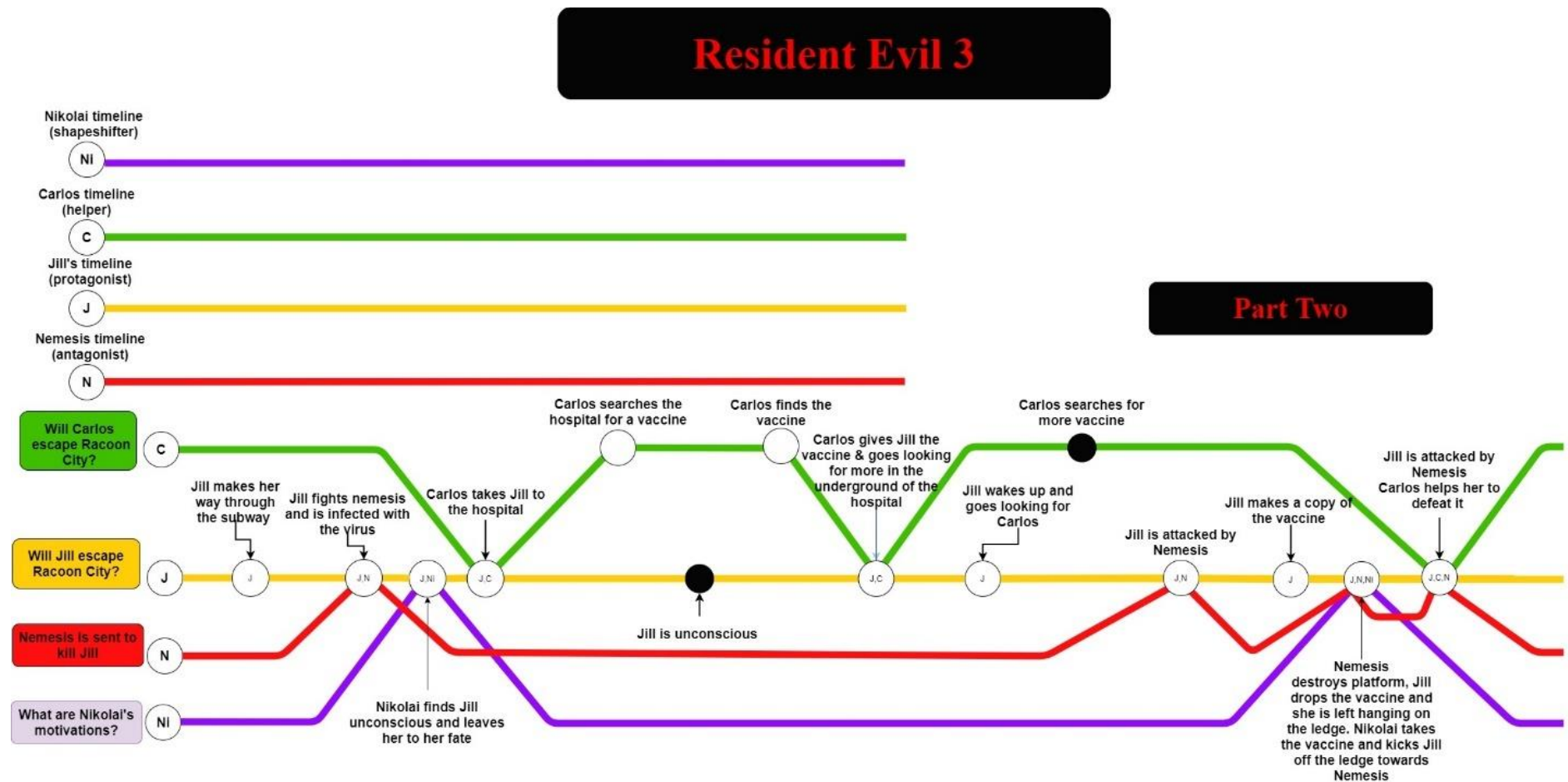
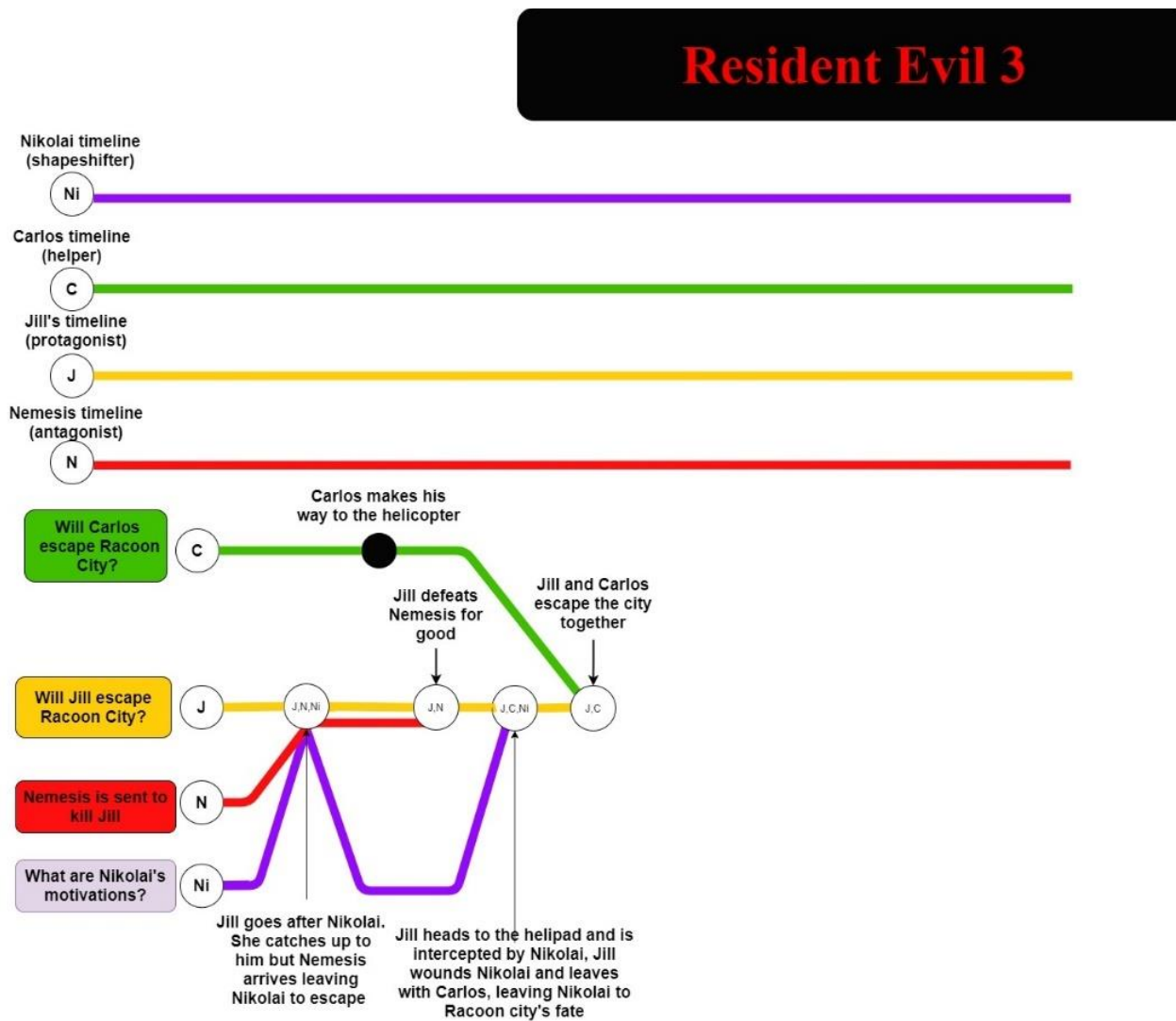


Figure 3. Subway map RE3 narrative part 3



Part Three

Jill's character progression

Jill's character progression can be tied to her relationship with Carlos. This was a focal point during the writing process for the game "The director wanted to be able to tell one consistent story this time around. We were able to better develop characterizations, especially in the relationship between Jill and Carlos" (Fabiano, Resident Evil 3: How Capcom Modernized the Classic Survival Horror Game, 2020). Key scenes of this are shown in (fig 4-8).

Figure 4. Character progression Scene 1

Overview with dialogue	Scene	Jill and Carlos relationship character progression
Their relationship starts off with a hostile exchange once Carlos reveals to Jill his employment to the Umbrella corporation. After hearing this Jill is instantly put on the defensive "I promise you're in good hands, I'm with the Umbrella Biohazard countermeasure service U.B.S.C for short" Carlos proclaims, "Are you kidding me? Are you fucking kidding me? you guys are the ones that caused all of this!" Jill angrily responds.	Carlos and Jill's first encounter takes place after Carlos stops Nemesis from attacking Jill. Carlos takes Jill to where the U.B.S.C are hiding the remaining survivors of Raccoon City	

Figure 5. Character progression Scene 2

Overview with dialogue	Scene	Jill and Carlos relationship character progression
As the narrative progresses Carlos shows signs to Jill his ignorance to Umbrella's involvement with the virus, as far as he is aware his mission is to help civilians. An example of Carlos's intentions can be seen when Jill is split from Carlos and the rest of the U.B.S.C. We hear a radio exchange between Jill and Carlos with Carlos proclaiming they will wait for Jill to make her way back before they leave the city via the train. This gives Jill insight into his moral stance, Carlos could have left Jill behind, but he chose to wait.	Jill is separated from the U.B.S.C members and needs to find her way back to the train to escape. Carlos radios Jill to check on her and waits for her to return before leaving the city	

Figure 6. Character progression Scene 3

Overview with dialogue	Scene	Jill and Carlos relationship character progression
As Jill makes her way back to the train, she is helped by Carlos to escape Nemesis, continuing to show he is trustworthy to Jill. "Carlos, I know we didn't get off to a great start but.... thanks for the save" Jill humbly remarks to him. This is where Jill's trust in Carlos begins to materialise for the audience showing her willingness to put past judgements aside and acknowledge when someone has helped her.	After being helped by Carlos to escape Nemesis, Jill and Carlos head back to the train. On the way back Jill thanks Carlos and highlights that her first impressions may have been wrong about him.	

Figure 7. Character progression Scene 4

Overview with dialogue	Scene	Jill and Carlos relationship character progression
After becoming unconscious due to infection from a battle with Nemesis, Jill awakens in the hospital. After coming too, Jill is shown a TV broadcast revealing a few hours are left before the City is destroyed by missiles. She is then told she was cured and rescued by Carlos who is now out looking for more vaccines. Jill once again shows her newfound trust for Carlos and without hesitation proclaims, she is going after him "where is he?", "he thinks he can do this by himself, I'm going after him". This also shows Jill's heroic arc by placing other people's lives before her own.	After being infected by Nemesis, Jill wakes up to discover she was recued and cured by Carlos. Time is counting down to the destruction of Racoon City with only a few hours remaining. Without hesitation Jill decides to go after Carlos instead of evacuating.	

Figure 8. Character progression Scene 5

Overview with dialogue	Scene	Jill and Carlos relationship character progression
In the climax of the story Jill is faced with a decision to shoot Nikolai but doing so would endanger Carlos. "Jill shoot him" Carlos shouts to Jill, "I can't I'll hit you!" Jill cries out. Her hesitation for Carlos's safety shows her affection for his character. "do it! you have to! there's no other way!" Carlos replies. Jill fires the gun and hits Nikolai badly wounding him. As soon as Nikolai is impeded Jill runs to Carlos who has fallen from the impact. Once again, we can see Jill's growth in her care for Carlos. "Carlos!" she shouts "hey. I told you I couldn't leave you in a Carlos-less world, that would just be too cruel" he jokes.	One last test is given to Jill and Carlos in the climax. Nikolai is all that stands between Jill and Carlos escaping with the vaccine. Carlos is able to grapple Nikolai and hold him in place. He tells Jill to shoot Nikolai. Jill hesitates but puts her trust in Carlos, shooting Nikolai and saving them both in result. Nikolai is badly wounded, Jill and Carlos escape the city together before Raccoon City is destroyed	

Joseph Campbell's book "The Hero With A Thousand Faces" describes a narrative structure using three acts, Departure, Initiation and Return (Campbell, 1949). A variation of this can be seen in (Fig.9) (How to find Purpose and Self Belief: The Hero's Journey, 2020), followed by Jill's character progression applied to this theory (Fig.10).

Figure 9. Variation of The Hero's Journey

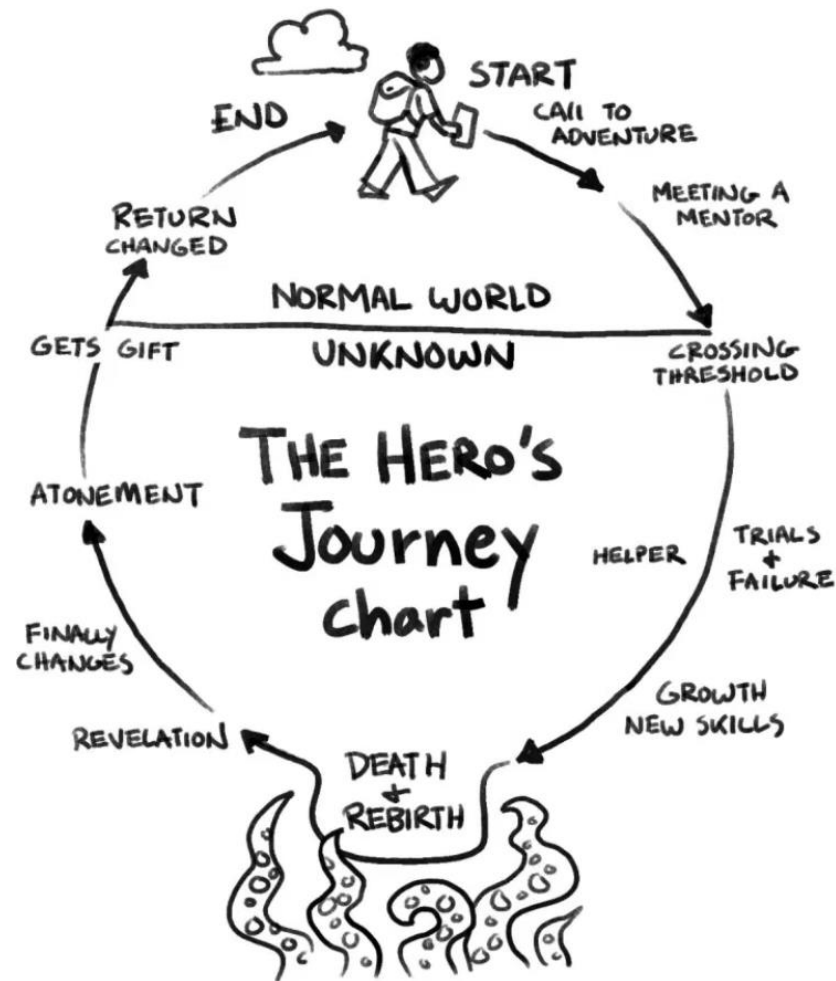
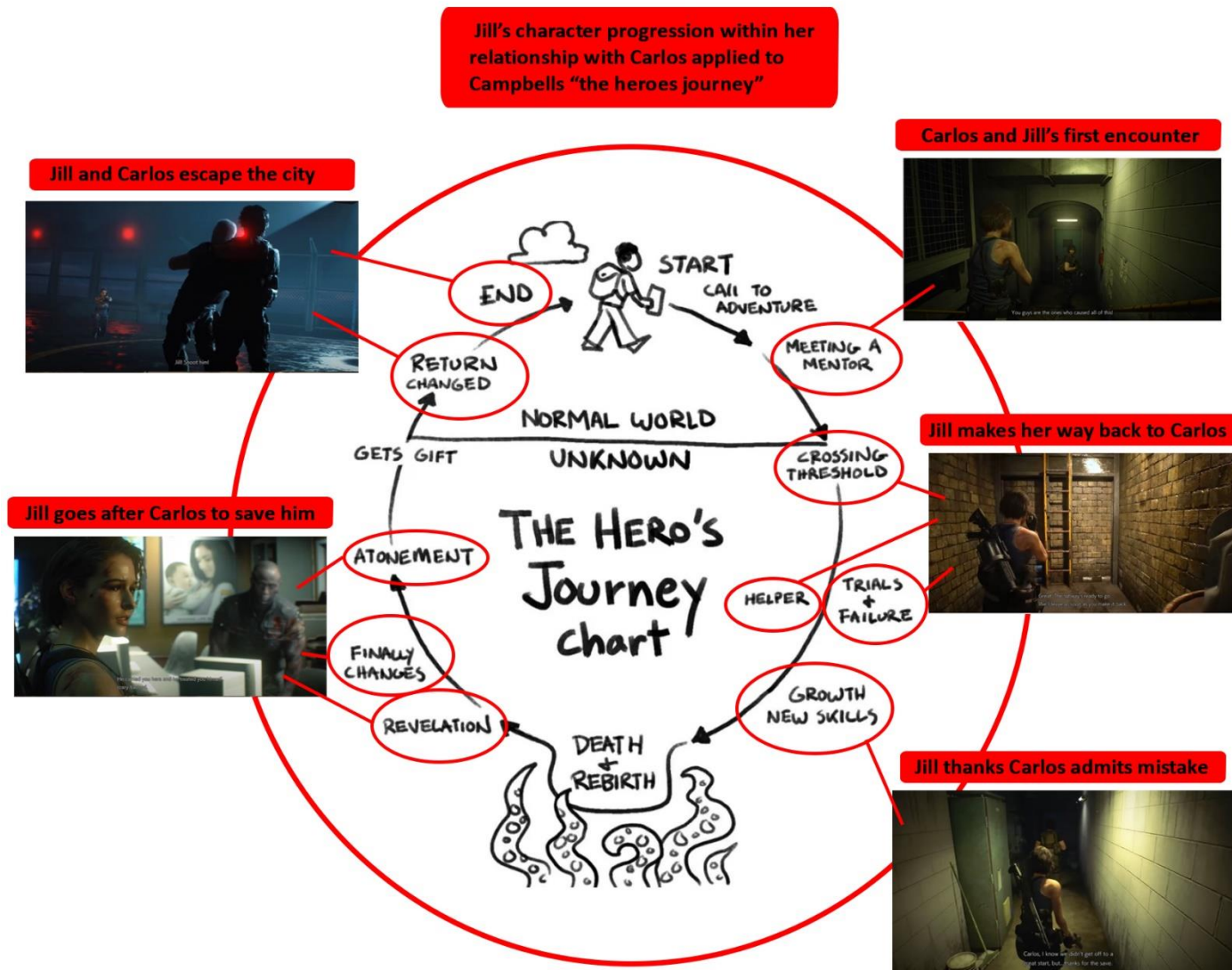


Figure 10. RE3R Jill's character progression applied to The Hero's Journey



Jill's relationship with Carlos fits well into The Hero's Journey, all key scenes discussed can be applied to a point in the correct sequence of circle.

Narrative structure comparison May, S. and Watts, N eight-point arc

Using Campbell's three acts as a template an eight-point story arc was created to show a narrative structure in eight stages (May, 2012) shown in (fig.11) followed by an application to this theory for the RE3R in (fig 12).

Figure 11. 8-point story arc

Stasis	Trigger	The Quest	Suprise	Critical Choice	Climax	Reversal	Resolution
Stasis establishes normality (the day to day goings on)	The Trigger breaks the stasis and begins the main action of the story	The Quest is the purpose for the protagonist throughout the story, giving them a goal to achieve caused by the trigger	An unexpected event in the narrative	The protagonist is given a significant and difficult decision	Where the accumulation of rising tensions involving the quest and critical choices come to a head	The hero/protagonist has learned from their journey and grown as a person	Establishes a new stasis and completes the loop

Figure 12. RE3R narrative applied to 8-point story arc.

Stasis	Trigger	The Quest	Suprise
 The story starts off inside Jill's apartment, where we see her obsession with outing Umbrella's involvement in the deadly virus. she also has nightmares about her previous encounter with the virus. The TV set broadcasts a news report showing the devastation of the city.	 Nemesis abruptly enters the room attacking Jill, Jill defends herself with a firearm but to no avail and runs from the foe. Nemesis gives chase to Jill.	 Jill is introduced to mercenaries employed by Umbrella to "rescue civilians" and is asked to help.	 Nikolai a member of the mercenary team betrays Jill and the others, locking the door behind him to escape Nemesis.
Critical Choice	Climax	Reversal	Resolution
 Jill wakes up in the hospital to a convenient TV broadcast signaling the City is hours away from being destroyed by missiles. Jill decides to go after Carlos in the hospital basement in spite of this.	 Jill is confronted with Nemesis one final time and goes on to defeat him. Jill progresses to meet Carlos at the helipad to make their escape but finds Carlos unconscious. She is then confronted by Nikolai. A fight between them breaks out, Jill and Carlos team up to defeat him.	 After running from her nemesis throughout the story Jill has finally defeated it. Over the course of the narrative Jill has also learned to trust Carlos and gained affection for him. This is progression in her character development in relation to her hate for anything and anyone related to Umbrella.	 Jill and Carlos escape the City just before it is destroyed by a nuclear blast. Carlos comments that they made it. Jill looks down at the vaccine to the virus pondering the reason as to the root cause of the terrible events unfolded. She thinks to herself, "greed"... "human greed".

This interpretation of Campbell's monomyth fits into the resident evil narrative neatly. Key moments of Jill's story can be placed inside the structure whilst also involving key moments for Nikolai in the "surprise" and "climax" stages.

The “Freytag’s Pyramid” theory uses a pyramid like structure separating the narrative into the following parts, exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution (Fig.13) (Freytag, 1863). This theory is applied for the RE3R narrative in (Fig.14).

Figure 13. Freytag's Pyramid

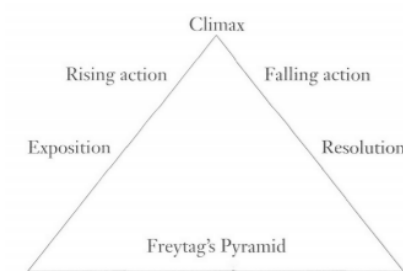
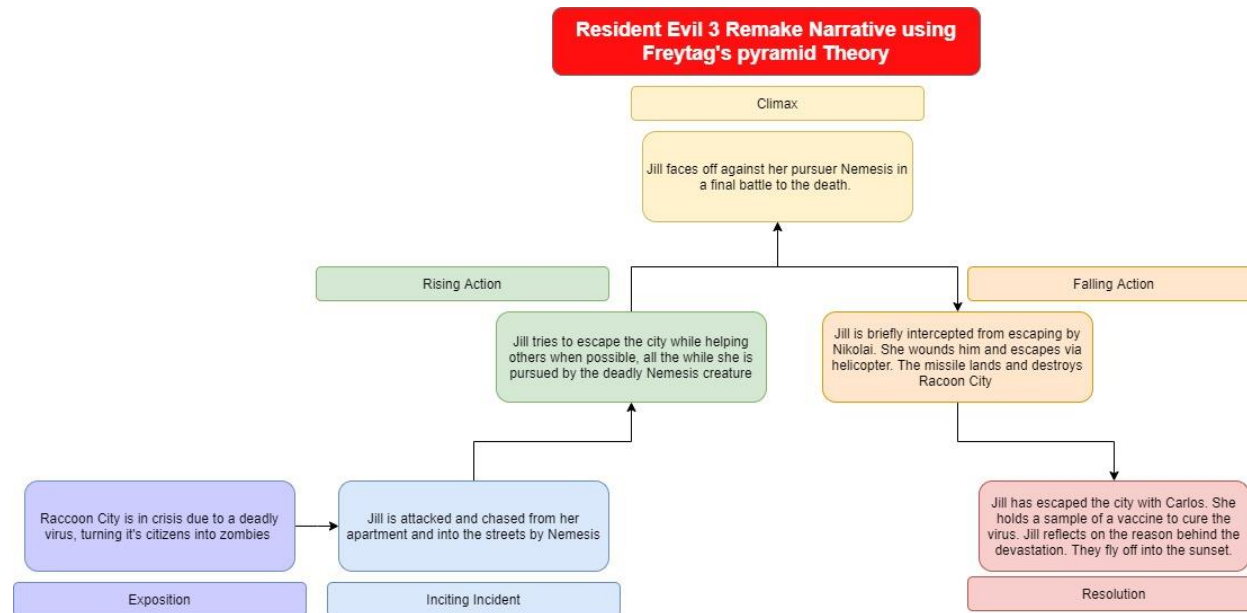


Figure 14. RE3R narrative applied to Freytag's Pyramid theory



key moments in Jill's plotline, fit into Freytag's theory. While moments of character progression such as Jill's relationship with Carlos is absent and the overall arching narrative can be applied into the pyramid structure, there is an inability to contain subplots focusing only on the key moments. In addition, the climax could be replaced with the falling action, "Nikolai's interception". For this analysis, the battle with Nemesis was chosen as the climax. In comparison, the 8-point story arc is able to hit on specific moments while achieving more detail into plot points such as "the surprise" event.

In the book "The Hero with a thousand faces" eight-character arcs are theorised into a narrative Hero, Mentor, Ally, Herald, Trickster, Shapeshifter, Guardian, and Shadow (Campbell, 1949). The RE3R characters are applied to this theory in (Fig.15).

Figure 15. RE3R characters applied to Campbell's archetypes.

Hero	Mentor	Ally	Herald
			
Jill Valentine, the stories main protagonist. She is determined, strong and has a preference to do good. Whilst not considered the narratives protagonist, Carlos Oliveira also contains the above traits	Carlos Oliveira, guides Jill to find important areas and locate useful items.	Carlos Oliveira, helps Jill throughout the story saving her from dangerous situations and joining her to help save civilians in the city.	Nathaniel Bard, leaves a video message admitting his involvement with Umbrella and reveals he has created a vaccine for the virus and where to find it.

Trickster	Shapeshifter	Guardian	Shadow
			
Carlos Oliveira brings humour to the story with his quips and jovial comments whereas Nikolai is a malevolent character using his cunning to hinder Jill to satisfy his own means.	Carlos Oliveira and Nikolai are seen by Jill as an enemy not to be trusted due to their affiliation with Umbrella. Carlos proves to Jill that he has good intentions whereas Nikolai reveals the opposite and has a much more nefarious motive.	Nemesis and Nikolai both hinder Jill's progress, blocking her path, stopping her from escaping or by redirecting her onto another route.	Both Nemesis and Nikolai are the antagonist of the story. They both sort to harm Jill and others around them without hesitation.

When applying RE3R's characters to this theory we can see that the cast fit into more than one category and show traits from multiple archetypes. For example, the "trickster" archetype is described as humorous as well as deviant by Campbell "Spreading strife is my greatest joy" (Campbell, 1949). This is applicable to Carlos who makes humorous comments to Jill, whilst also applicable to Nikolai who tricks Jill into dangerous situations. Carl Jung theorised typical character archetypes in his book "The archetypes and the collective unconscious" (Jung, 1959). (Fig.16) shows a table containing some of these archetypes along with their traits complimented with direct quotes from his translated book. In (Fig.17) Jung's archetypes are applied to the characters of RE3R.

Figure 16. Carl Jung's character archetypes

	Hero	Mother	Father	Child	Trickster	Wise Old Man	Maiden	Shadow
Characteristics	Saviour, courageous	Nurturing, loving character	Strong, confident	Growth, innocent	Sly, humorous, deceiving	Wise, helpful	Sacrificial, helpless to dangers	without empathy, challenges the hero
Jung, C.G. quotes	"The hero's main feat is to overcome the monster of darkness".	"the maternal instinct, is identical with that well-known image of the mother"	"It is always the father-figure from whom the decisive convictions, prohibitions, and wise counsels emanate."	"Child" means something evolving towards independence. This it cannot do without detaching itself from its origins". "child" is on the one hand delivered helpless into the power of terrible enemies and in continual danger of extinction, while on the other he possesses powers far exceeding those of ordinary humanity. "though the child may be "insignificant," unknown, "a mere child," he is also divine".	"his fondness for sly jokes and malicious pranks, his powers as a shape-shifter"	"always appears in a situation where insight, understanding, good advice, determination, planning, etc., are needed but cannot be mustered on one's own resources".	"The maiden's helplessness exposes her to all sorts of dangers, for instance of being devoured by reptiles or ritually slaughtered like a beast of sacrifice". "sacrifice of the maiden". "for these maidens are always doomed to die".	"It cannot be argued out of existence or rationalized into harmlessness", "it not only challenges the whole man, but reminds him at the same time of his helplessness and ineffectuality".

Figure 17. RE3R character archetypes applied to Jung's theory.

Hero	Mother	Father	Child
			
Jill Valentine, the main protagonist and Carlos both show "Saviour" and "courageous" qualities throughout the game, they both try to save civilians, comrades and newly made friends.	(Nurturing, loving character). Jill and Carlos show signs of affection towards one another but this is never shown to be due to maternal instinct or love, instead it is more towards their own moral code and a friendship through mutual goals.	Both Jill and Carlos make concise decisions with confidence. They show strength and leadership on multiple occasions whether through their ability in combat or their ability to get the job done.	(Growth, innocence) While Jill does in fact show growth through her trials and tribulations, she cannot be considered starting her journey as helpless. Nor does she show signs of child-like innocence.
Trickster	Wise Old Man	Maiden	Shadow
			
Carlos Oliveira brings humour to the story with his quips and jovial comments whereas Nikolai is a malevolent character using his cunning to hinder Jill to satisfy his own means.	Carlos has knowledge that he passes on to Jill, he tells her where to find important locations and supplies. He tells Jill the plan and how to power up the train to rescue civilians.	The civilians of Raccoon City could be considered to align with the maiden archetype the most. They are helpless victims to the dangers unleashed. The "sacrificial" element is closest to Mikhail Victor, a member of the U.B.S.C. He sacrifices himself by setting off an explosive device (this is what derails the train) but it is important to note that he does this willingly and is badly wounded when deciding to do this.	While Nikolai can be considered in this category, Nemesis aligns with this archetype to a higher degree, due to his/it's unstoppable nature, constant pursuit of Jill, destroying everything in its path and cannot be reasoned with or rationalised in any way.

Some of Jung's character archetypes are applicable to the RE3R characters, with the exception of "Mother" and "child" though the "shadow" aligns with Nemesis in every way described. The "Hero," "father" and "trickster" traits overlap either by fully fulfilling the role or containing elements from an individual archetype. Comparing the two theories shows that Jung's chosen archetypes are less relevant whereas Campbell's archetypes can all be applied to a character in some form.

Conclusion

This assessment set out to achieve an analysis of the narrative and character progression in RE3R. The theories discussed can all be applied albeit with some irregularities. When comparing the narrative structure, the variant to Campbell's "A hero's journey" is a much more flexible theory than "Freytag's pyramid". Campbell's character archetypes were also more relevant when compared to Jung's archetypes. As for the character progression, Jill's journey could fit into The Heroes Journey almost entirely. The analysis shows that the theories discussed are still relevant and being used in the modern era of storytelling.

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