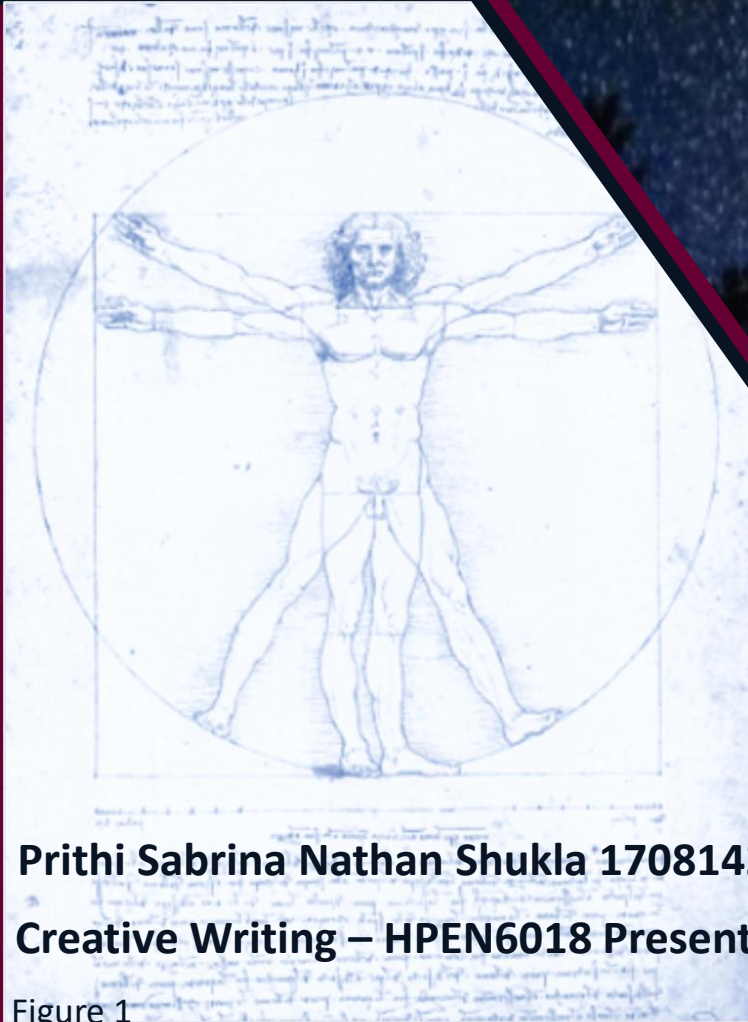


Fibonacci's Children



Prithi Sabrina Nathan Shukla 1708142

Creative Writing – HPEN6018 Presentation 2019 - 2020

Figure 1

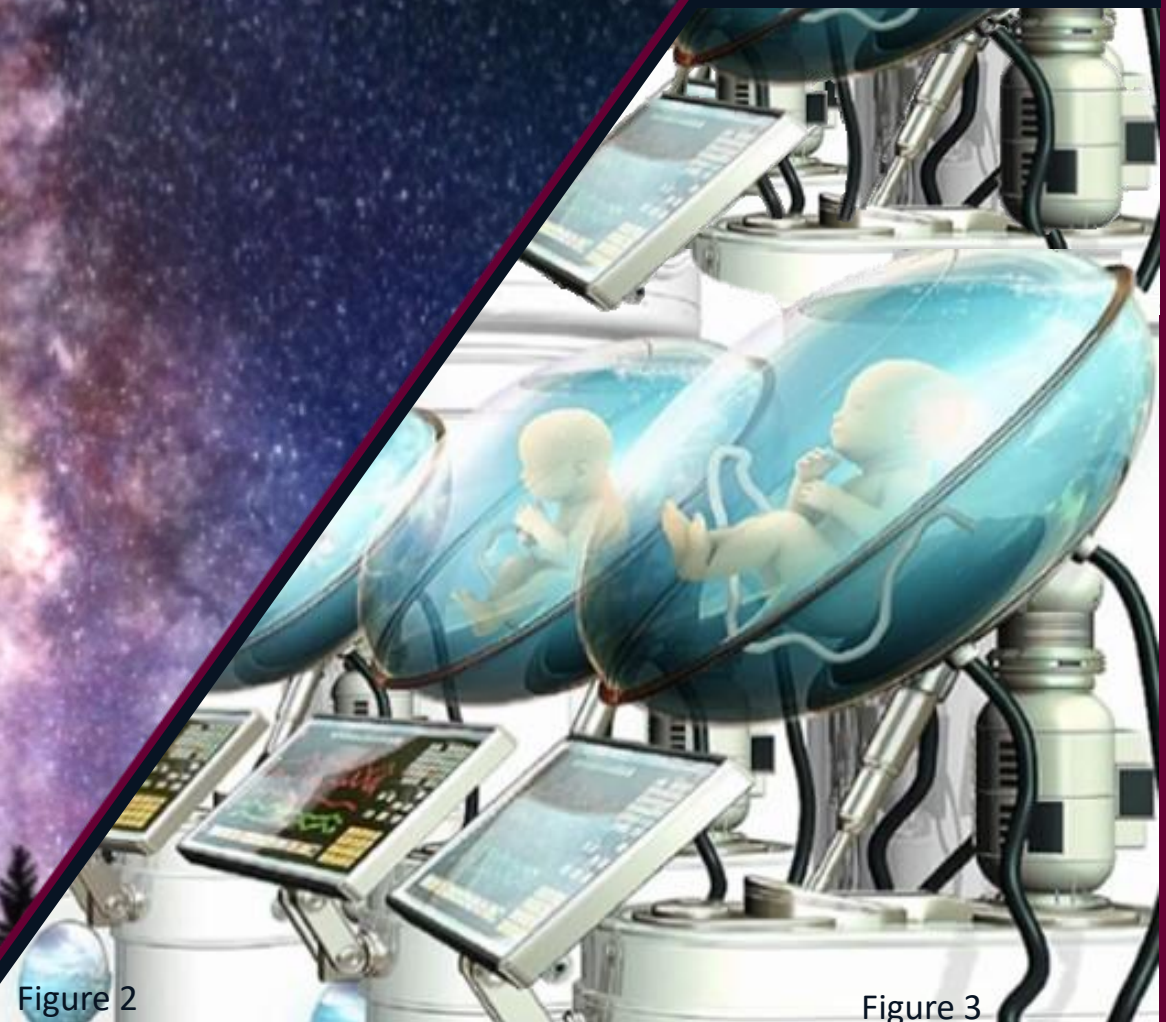


Figure 2

Figure 3

Introduction

- Screenplay: To develop my skills in screenwriting.
- Genre: Dystopian Science Fiction on 'New Eugenics'.
- AIM: Empowering visual narrative to convey the dangers and advantages of this aspect of biotechnology.

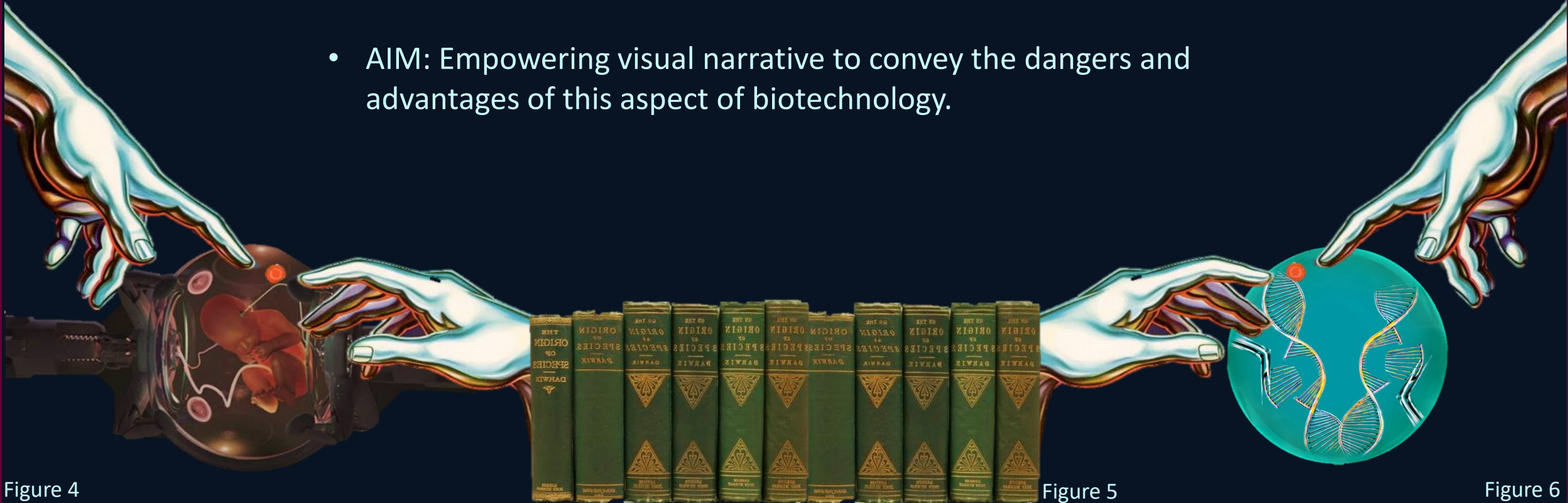


Figure 4

Figure 5

Figure 6



History of the Concept

Figure 7

- The history of **Evolution** has always intrigued me. Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859) influenced many authors such as Thomas Hardy, Charles Kingsley, Robert Louis Stevenson and Jack London .¹ Similarly, his book inspired me.
- Darwinism moves away from Creationism.
- Research on the subject led me to 'New Eugenics'.
- Researched material such as: *Playing God?* by Ted Peters and David Gem's article 'Politically Correct Eugenics'.
- Scientific discoveries like cloning and DNA sequencing mean that this is a topical subject with moral impact.
- Result: Screenplay about a new world where manipulated human evolution has severe consequences.



Figure 8



Figure 9

1. John Holmes, , 'Darwinism in Literature', *Special Collections University of Reading* [blog], 02.2014, < <http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/english-at-reading/files/2014/02/Darwinism-in-Literature1.pdf> > [accessed 10 July 2019]

Researching the Techniques & Elements

Approach to creative:

Filmmaking

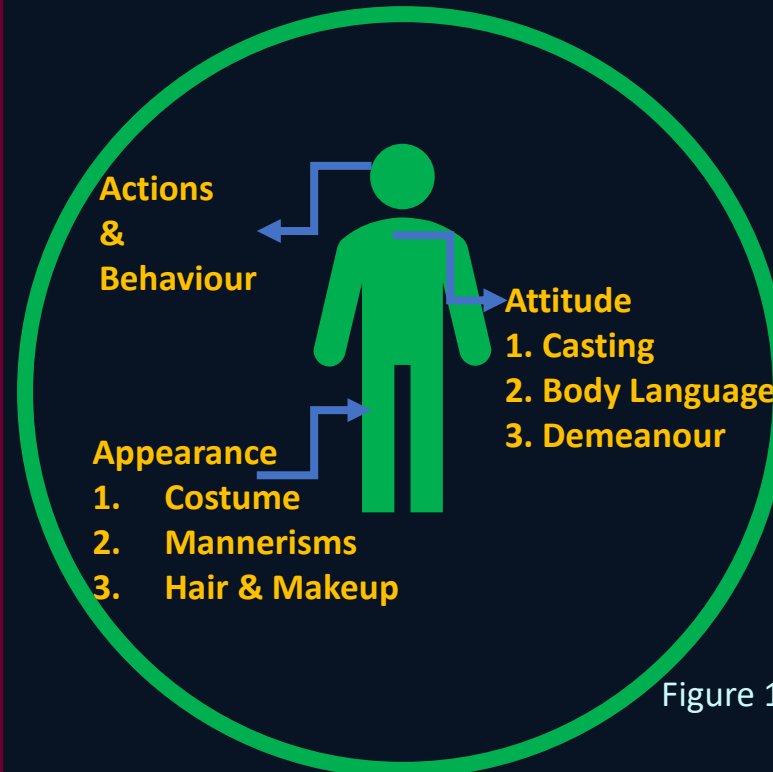
- Cause and Effect
- Time and Space
- Opening & Closing
(Opening: my story works backwards just after the story's climax)

Screenwriting

- Formatting and Style
- Power of Uncertainty
- Three Act Layout:
 - Act 1:** Introduces the characters
 - Act 2:** Development of characters & the story which finally reaches a climax
 - Act 3:** Resolution

Narrative Theory

- Plot Structure & Character Theory



- Vladimir Propp
- Roland Barthes
- John Gardner
- Peter Brooks

Figure 10

Research

Scientific & Technical

- Genetic engineering
- Props



Figure 11
Holographic augmented reality book

Historical

- Evolution
- Darwinism

Geographical

- Welsh Landscape
- Porton Down
- Caerwent

Political

- Darwinism affects politics
- Sterilisation
- Mental Health Institutions
- Laws on Gene Editing

Principal Influential Sources

Books & Journal Articles

- *Utopia*: Sir Thomas More
- *Brave New World*: Aldous Huxley
- *On the Origin of Species*: Charles Darwin
- *Playing God*: Ted Peters
- 'Politically Correct Eugenics': David Gems
- 'New Eugenics in Cinema': David Kirby

Films & Film Scripts

- Children of Men
- The Road
- Never Let me Go
- Tomorrowland
- Star Wars

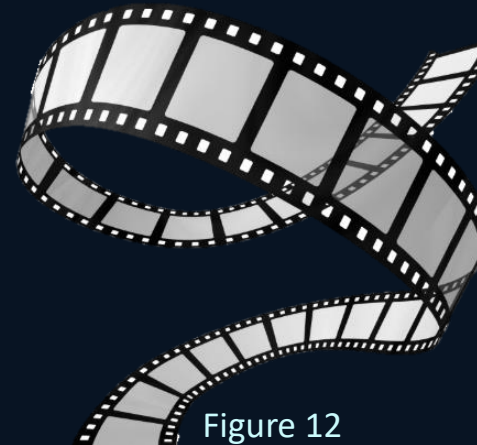


Figure 12

How the Screenplay Developed

Process

- Rough outline: prose (Theme and Plot)
- Log line
- Synopsis
- Character description
- Created a visual timeline (main plot)
- Divided the screenplay into three acts
- Sequences added to create full scenes
- Added dialogue throughout
- Removed unwanted material
- Screenplay = initial draft



Figure 13

Mairwen: early 30s. Daughter of Dr Dawson. Timid, compassionate, sensitive, bitten by snake, limps. Her outlook on life differs from her father's and twin sister Marta's. Saved by Fibonacci in forest. She is against her father's work. Learns E has her mother's DNA and DAN her father's. Upset with her father. She discovers foetuses discarded in the forest. She is not sure if they are cloned foetuses that went wrong or miscarried, after the viral pandemic outbreak. She decides to learn more from an ex scientist, now Fibonacci activist Glen, whom she meets in the forest. She continues living with her father to assist the Fibonacci and becomes an informant. Character growth - initially lives in the shadow of her sister, subdued, afraid to stand up for her beliefs, gains confidence as story progresses. Ultimately, she stands up for herself despite the dangers to protect E and D

Challenges

- Strategically reworking elements
- Making the story work
- Additional Research
- Time Management
- Writer's Block

 Glen: Fibonacci Headed stronger 30 years, lost his wife to the pandemic virus. Tall, strong, he meets Mairwen in the forest and saves her after a snake bite. He is on a mission to help the unfortunate and the genetically engineered and cloned children. As a geneticist from Porton Down, he is against the embryo cloning.	 Mairwen: early 30s. Daughter of Dr Dawson. Timid, compassionate, sensitive, bitten by snake, limps. Her outlook on life differs from her father's and twin sister Marta's. Saved by Fibonacci in forest. She is against her father's work. Learns E has her mother's DNA and DAN her father's. Upset with her father. She discovers foetuses discarded in the forest. She is not sure if they are cloned foetuses that went wrong or miscarried, after the viral pandemic outbreak. She decides to learn more from an ex scientist, now Fibonacci activist Glen, whom she meets in the forest. She continues living with her father to assist the Fibonacci and becomes an informant. Character growth - initially lives in the shadow of her sister, subdued, afraid to stand up for her beliefs, gains confidence as story progresses. Ultimately, she stands up for herself despite the dangers to protect E and D.	 Sarah Sheehy: Chief of Britain's secretive Scientific Institution Porton Down. Smart, powerful, no patience, loves her work, always dressed in her white overalls, short hair, piercing green eyes. She lives around science. Her husband died with a snake. A classified top secret regulated human breeding program project from cloned and genetically engineered embryos called Project WOLF. HSC was passed. The CD babies are part of the hybrid state science. They would be trained to be unwilling soldiers and assassins for the state. Sarah, a tough, strong-willed woman worked closely with the head of the project and the HSC. Committed to her work she expected everyone to be as dedicated. She had no time for anyone who fell back. In early 2022, a new life-threatening pandemic disease, MEV-186 virus emerged. In only a few months the virus reached Britain, transmitted by travellers and returning nationals. There was a continent-wide measles outbreak. The viral infection immune to the available vaccine in Britain and Europe killed the children and tens of thousands of Britain's population. The UK government was unable to contain the new virus. The viral infection spread at a terrifying rate and became a worldwide pandemic. The government closed its borders. Over 75% of the British population are affected. Those who survived after being exposed to the virus were affected by disease and infertility. A secretive CDG government survey revealed, two-thirds of the British population was reduced by 75%. Infertility and deaths continued to persist. It is suggested that if the deaths and infertility continues at the current rate, in the next two years the population would be down to only 7 million, unless efforts were made to increase human numbers on the island. The government passed a reproductive programme immediately.	
 Joshua: Fibonacci 30 years. Part of Fibonacci activist group who sends Glen and Vincent off on their mission to disrupt the government hatch breeding plants and to rescue both E and D.	 Vincent: Fibonacci Headed Figure two 28 years. Part of the Fibonacci activist group and Glen's lover. He assists Glen in rescuing Mairwen in the forest.	 Dr Nick Dawson: Head of the Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down by the Ministry of Defence. Intelligent, had an affair with Sheehy, he has two twin daughters from his wife Clara. He is closer to Marta than he is to Mairwen. His daughter lives with him at Ashford Manor in a remote part of Wales. Hidden away by forests and surrounded by hills. It's the A465 between Corwen and Llangollen, the site provides a lot more privacy. When his dead wife Clara, clones her DNA to create Evelyn and uses his DNA to genetically engineer Dan. Evelyn working and makes a breakthrough in genetics. Quiet, witty, unassuming, self-absorbed, work is his priority, unless any opposition against the state. Hence despises the Fibonacci. CD babies remain at Porton where they are bred in genetically isolated. It provides a practical element of his plan, use and a hospital designed layout - located in the suburbs of Salisbury. With the help of a dedicated band of his team Dr Dawson continues the babies progress regularly. The two wings of the building served as a laboratory, a children's ward and living quarters for the team. The third and fourth wing were used as a nursery, school and training ground. Dr Dawson worked in his lab at the residence and visited Porton when required. He allowed him to reside comfortably and perform his top secret classified research work without disruption. The Project WOLF - HSC individuals, at the age of sixteen were to be sent to a secret combat training camp, similar to Calverton in South Wales. Dr Dawson's daughter Mairwen assisted him in his work. Dr reports his wife Clara and his twin sons.	 James: 45 years. Secretive, quiet, large and imposing. Works for the government at Porton Down. He is a risk for the resistance. As the boss of PD to escape. "Tiger" Lamb. He decides to assist the Fibonacci after he and his pregnant wife and their unborn child. To avoid captured or cloned children, pregnant mothers were being encouraged to terminate the pregnancy. Those who didn't sign up soon after disappeared or died, he suggests the government are involved in his wife and
 Marta: early 30s. Identical twin of Mairwen. Another daughter of Dr Dawson with his work and checks the GB at Calverton. Has two sons Spencer 15 yrs and Hugh 8 yrs. Practical, stern, looks compassion for the GB. Her sister's complexity and disregard for the Fibonacci irritates her. Feels she is a change and always hanging around doing something or the other. Lack of patience and	 Evelyn: 12 years of age, is a clone experiment child. She is the sister of Glen. Rose is her guardian. Afraid but independent. Very close to her brother Dan. Has friends. She is a quick learner and incredibly talented in the arts as well as being an expert in judo. Her DNA is different from her brother but matches the DNA of Mairwen Dr Dawson's wife. Only Sarah and the CD are aware. Her best friend is Anna and they are always together but get separated. Helps Glen. Tough and warm towards Mairwen as story progresses.	 Spencer: 15 years. Identical twin of Mairwen. Another daughter of Dr Dawson with his work and checks the GB at Calverton. Has two sons Spencer 15 yrs and Hugh 8 yrs. Practical, stern, looks compassion for the GB. Her sister's complexity and disregard for the Fibonacci irritates her. Feels she is a change and always hanging around doing something or the other. Lack of patience and	 Hugh: 8 years, gloomy, scary, boy. Identical twin of Spencer and Evelyn
 Dan: 16 years, creation of Orygen, special abilities which he is unaware of. Mairwen's sister. Gentle, quiet, looks confident. Born at Porton with his cloned sister Evelyn. Has special skills. His best friend is Anna. Dan and Evelyn hate the GB. Dan's best friend is Anna who is innocent and gentle but trustworthy and kind. Dan has a close bond with his brother. Dan and Evelyn are sent to live with Glen Dawson and family after accident at Porton. No history	 Rose: 16 years. Identical twin mother of Evelyn and Dan - Rose is a paid government scientist. She lives an ordinary life in East London working as an NHS nurse. Interacting with society. She lived as the mother of both of the cloned babies and named them in her own. The children were told their father's name was not the same. They were truck drivers who were passing through. Rose and the children's progress was monitored separately by both Dr Dawson and a London Doctor at the NHS. Immediately after the measles outbreak and nuclear plant disaster, the two cloned children Dan and Evelyn are forcibly taken by the government to protect them from the unsafe conditions. Rose contracts the measles virus and dies. Dan and Evelyn are unaware she is not their real mother. They later discover the truth when they are taken to the training camp in Wales to join the others. Glen and Evelyn decide to escape. They are helped by their friends.		

Designing and Creating Characters

Figure 14

Draft Amendments

Redrafted scenes to create an engaging screenplay

- Improved & cut dialogue (exposition, character trait)
- Rearranged scenes (for more effective pace and flow)
- Removed scenes that side - tracked from the main plot
- Voice over & unnecessary description removed
- Edited scene: Mairwen and Martta (please refer to handout)

Figure 15

Mairwen wraps the shawl around herself and rummages for her spectacles on her bedside. Unexpectedly she suddenly withdraws her hand, knocking over a glass half-filled with water. With eyes shut tight, she grimaces and reaches down to feel her feet. Mairwen kneads her left foot trying to squeeze out the pain, then shrinks back against her pillow with a groan.

Martta glances at the bedside table instead.

MAIRWEN (CONT'D)

...WHAT...it's just a glass of water!

Water from the toppled glass spills over the fallen framed photograph of their mother.

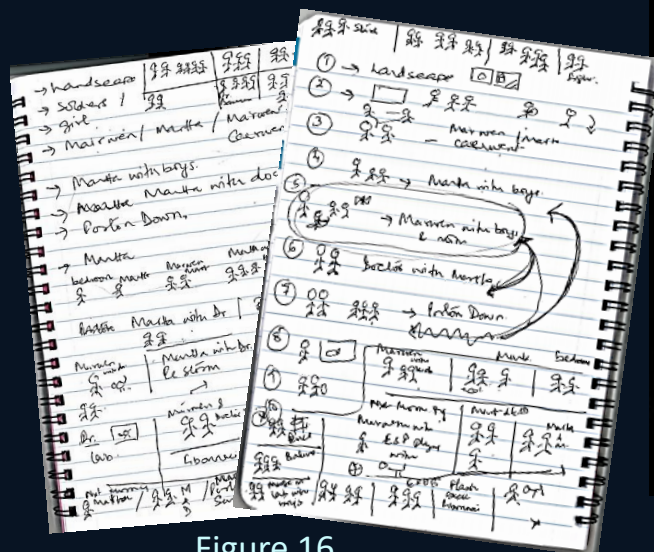
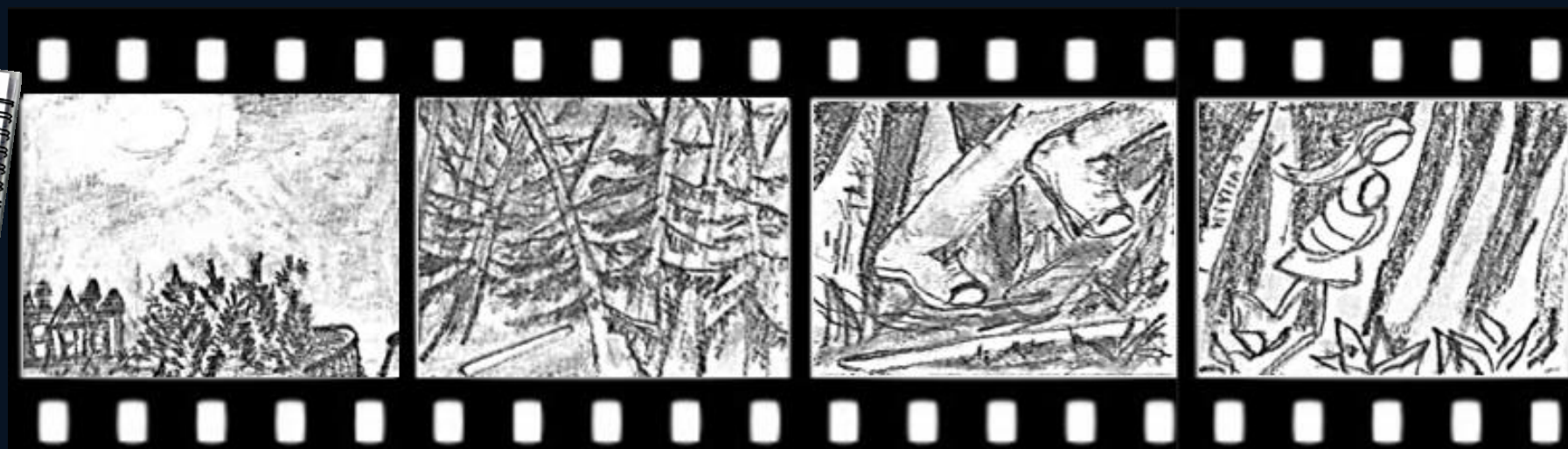


Figure 16



Story Board

Figure 17

Figure 18



Final Reflection

Strengths

- Distinct voice and characterisation
- Character growth drives the action & emotions
- Planned science fiction elements and props
- Offers a twist and conflict to build suspense

Need to work on (Future)

Tightening the Three Acts

- Improve dialogue
- Build relationships between characters
- Use props to convey information
- Cut out superfluous material
- Consider ongoing Feedback

I look forward to rewriting my screenplay as many times as it takes to perfect it

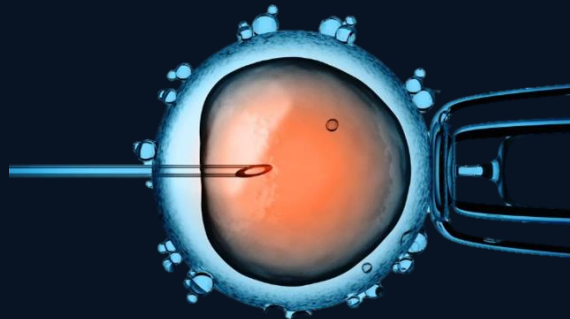


Figure 19

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- Figure 2: 'Milky Way, Galaxy Wall Paper' *Google Images* < https://www.google.com/search?q=arianrhod+and+the+milky+way&rlz=1C1CHBF_enGB779GB779&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=Mx-kBilKHxeiJM%253A%252CG4G9-PBBIL7DhM%252C_&vet=1&usg=AI4_kQSaKiDgh_lxvMoKPI3vx5n8YtUsQ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiEsaWmt5nkAhWGzqQKHbjDBhIQ9QEwAnoECAkQCQ#imgsrc=Mx-kBilKHxeiJM:&vet=1 > [accessed 01 Sep 2019]
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- Figure 5: 'First six printings of on The Origin of Species', *Peter Harrington, London* < <https://www.peterharrington.co.uk/blog/collect-first-editions-books/> > [accessed 30Sep 2019]
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Notes:

Slide 1:

- I have chosen to write a screenplay for my Creative Project
- Title of screenplay 'Fibonacci's Children'
- The Presentation will cover... mention headers for each slide

Slide 2 no notes

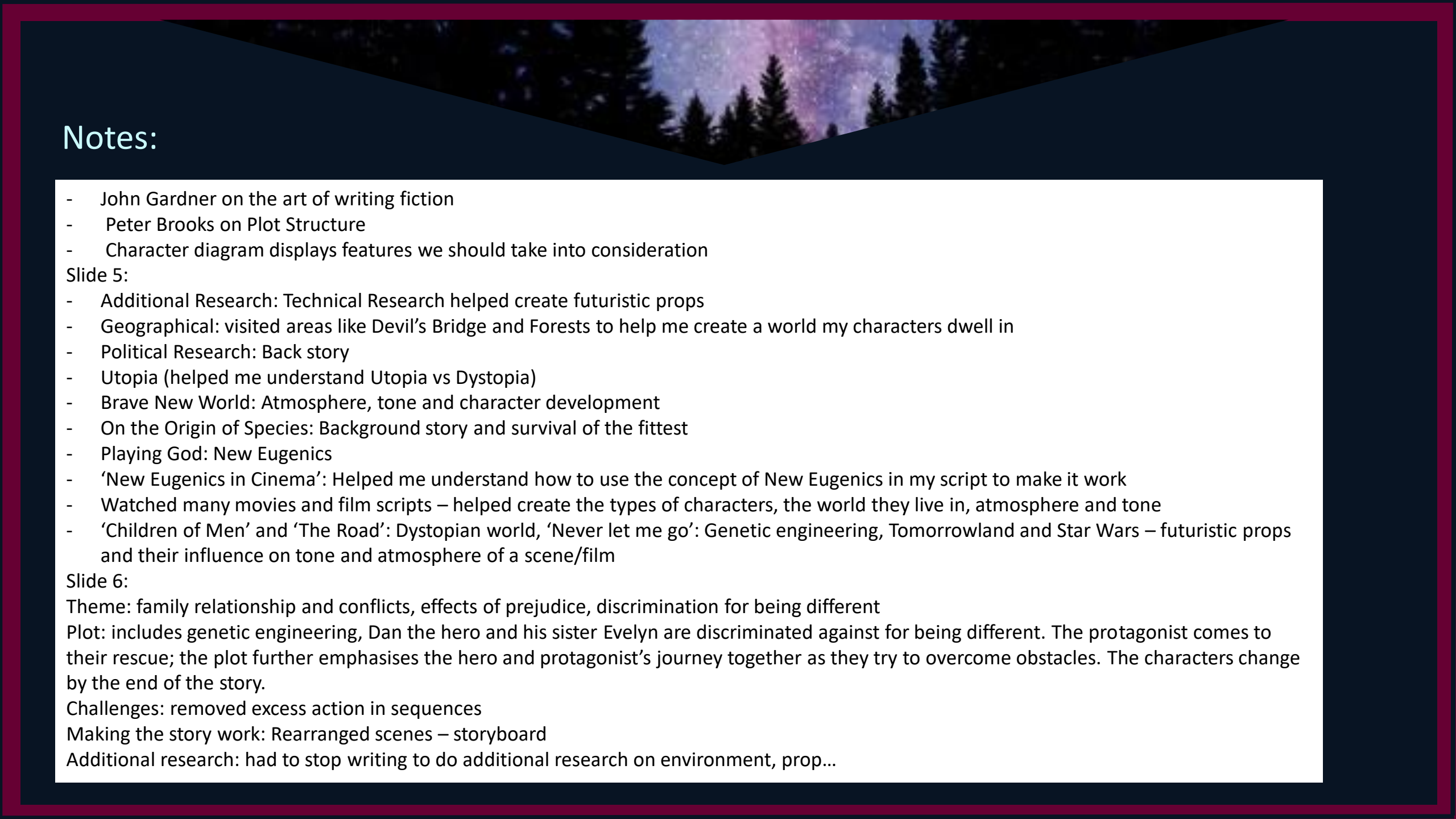
Slide 3

- The book inspired me especially the chapter on Natural Selection
- Darwinism caused quite a stir at the time like New Eugenics today
- New Eugenics fascinates me yet can be overwhelming
- Scientific discoveries (practised today) like cloning and DNA sequencing (though in their elementary/formative stage)...
- Hence, I felt it imperative to write a screenplay about...

Slide 4:

- Before I started writing my screenplay, I found it necessary to research Filmmaking, Screenwriting and Narrative Theory
- The elements that stand out for me in Film making are...
- Especially Time: Real-Time vs Screen time
- Opening: launches us into what happens, which can be from the middle of a plot – media res
- Screenwriting: Formatting and Style are essential for layout
- Power of Uncertainty highlights the importance of tension and suspense. Modern Times – Charlie Chaplin – skates blindfolded in an area where a hole has been dug out in the floor. He skates towards it, away and back to it. Creation of hope vs fear¹
- Three Acts – helped with structure
- Vladimir Propp: 31 functions & 8 Character types
- Roland Barthes: on Structural Analysis of the narrative

1. David Howard, & Edward Mabley, The Tools of Screenwriting: A Writers Guide to the Craft and Elements of a Screenplay (London: Souvenir Press Ltd, 2011), p. 38.



Notes:

- John Gardner on the art of writing fiction
- Peter Brooks on Plot Structure
- Character diagram displays features we should take into consideration

Slide 5:

- Additional Research: Technical Research helped create futuristic props
- Geographical: visited areas like Devil's Bridge and Forests to help me create a world my characters dwell in
- Political Research: Back story
- Utopia (helped me understand Utopia vs Dystopia)
- Brave New World: Atmosphere, tone and character development
- On the Origin of Species: Background story and survival of the fittest
- Playing God: New Eugenics
- 'New Eugenics in Cinema': Helped me understand how to use the concept of New Eugenics in my script to make it work
- Watched many movies and film scripts – helped create the types of characters, the world they live in, atmosphere and tone
- 'Children of Men' and 'The Road': Dystopian world, 'Never let me go': Genetic engineering, Tomorrowland and Star Wars – futuristic props and their influence on tone and atmosphere of a scene/film

Slide 6:

Theme: family relationship and conflicts, effects of prejudice, discrimination for being different

Plot: includes genetic engineering, Dan the hero and his sister Evelyn are discriminated against for being different. The protagonist comes to their rescue; the plot further emphasises the hero and protagonist's journey together as they try to overcome obstacles. The characters change by the end of the story.

Challenges: removed excess action in sequences

Making the story work: Rearranged scenes – storyboard

Additional research: had to stop writing to do additional research on environment, prop...

Notes:

Slide 7:

Improved dialogue: displayed exposition and character traits through action and props

Third scene: edited after receiving feedback from the class. Please refer to the handout - blue text is the amended text. Though I have made changes I still need to amend these extracts:

- Mairwen wraps the shawl around herself and rummages for her spectacles on her bedside. Unexpectedly she suddenly withdraws her hand, knocking over a glass half-filled with water. With eyes shut tight, she grimaces and reaches down to feel her feet. Mairwen kneads her left foot trying to squeeze out the pain, then shrinks back against her pillow with a groan
- Mairwen flips through her holographic book and STOPS at a double-page photograph with incubators. She lifts the book and points at the image labelled ECTOGENESIS INCUBATORS.

CLOSE ON a photograph with developing fetuses submerged in amniotic fluid in computer-controlled incubators. She makes frantic gestures at the oval-shaped glass apparatus, which appears as holographic augmented reality pop-up images above the page.

- Mairwen lunges forward to snatch the book. As they struggle for it, a photo falls out... It's a picture of Mairwen and Martta at Caerwent.

Martta picks it up... Name Caerwent and Porton Down to be changed

Slide 8:

Consider ongoing feedback and make amendments accordingly

I found this block and the lectures very helpful especially the lectures on Story building, Senses and Characterisation as well as the work shop sessions.
