

Editor's Six Core Questions

Game of Thrones - Season 2



What's the Global Genre?

For the Season:

External: Society > Political

Status > Admiration

What is the Global Life Value?

In this season we see power and impotence at higher stakes than ever. Whoever wins this battle will keep their power, and keep their head. Life and death are naturally in every beat, and on the scale of Action's life and death we see everything from life to death to damnation.

What are the objects of desire?

Starks: To have justice restored and power shifted to the rightful heir

Lannisters: To have power and get the throne

Daenerys: To have power and get the throne

What's the controlling idea/theme?

For the season: War lacks meaning and revolution fails when leaders are obsessed with the game of thrones and fail to address the real enemy (and using dishonourable methods)

For the Lannisters: We gain power when we prove our ruthlessness, ingenuity and authority

What are the Obligatory scenes of the Global Genre (Society)

- **Inciting Attack** - Robb Stark has numerous victories against Lanisters off-screen. He is a threat to the Lannisters
- **Protagonists deny responsibility to respond** - The Lannisters are the common enemy, but Renly, Stannis, Rob Stark, and the Greyjoys cannot unite under one banner

- **Forced to respond, the protagonists lash out according to their positions on the power hierarchy** - Stannis kills his brother through magic, Grayjoys raid the North, Robb Stark continues to win and keeps Jamie Lanister prisoner.
- **Each Character learns what their antagonist's object of desire is:**
 - Rob wants to be acknowledged as King of the North and left alone
 - Stannis and Renly want to be King
 - Cersei, Tywin, and Tyrion want Joffrey to stay king
 - The warlocks want the dragons to get stronger magic
- **Protagonists' initial strategy to outmaneuver antagonists fails:** Attempts to trade Jamie for the Stark girls fail because of his escape attempt causing friction between Catelyn and Karstarks. Tywin continues to lose battles to Robb Stark. Half of Stannis' fleet gets destroyed by Tyrion's wildfire attack. Tyrion tries to put pieces in place against Cersei to gain more power over her, but gets almost killed in the battle by one of her hired gold cloaks.
- **Protagonists, realizing they must change their approach to attain a measure of victory undergo an All Is Lost moment** - Tywin retreats to Casterly Rock leaving King's Landing exposed to attack by Stannis with overpowering forces
- **The Big Battle Scene:** protagonists' gifts are expressed or destroyed - Stannis attacks King's Landing, Tyrion uses wildfire to defend the seas, but Stannis presses his attack on land and Joffrey hides while Tyrion leads a counterattack. Tywin saves the day against Stannis in a last minute surprise attack
- **Protagonists are rewarded** with at least one level of satisfaction for their sacrifice - Tyrion survives the attack. Robb marries the woman he loves rather than a Frey daughter. Stannis gets hope through Melisandre.

What are the Conventions of the Global Genre?

Conventions

- **There is one central character with offshoot characters that embody a multitude of that main character's personality traits** - We have characters like Davos and Jon Snow are the moral end of the character spectrum, versus Joffrey and Cersei who are power-hungry and crazy.
- **Big Canvas. Either a wide scope external setting or the internal landscape** - The intrigue of the 7 kingdoms and the mystical element of the white walkers who are beyond the wall.
- **A clear revolutionary Point of No Return.** The moment when power shifts must be clearly defined and dramatized - Stannis' forces are destroyed, he has no navy or army or money.
- **The vanquished are doomed to exile** - Stannis returns to Dragon Rock, Gendry and the Stark children are effectively in exile

- **The power divide between those in power and those disenfranchised is large** - Anyone who isn't from a powerful political family is weak and subject to the Game of Thrones. This is particularly evident with those who are associated with former powerful figures e.g. Gendry and Arya Stark who are hiding and on the run. The men of the night watch are also without power to ask for more men, yet their demand is critical to the safekeeping of the realm.
- **Ironic win-but-lose/ lose-but-win ending** - despite overwhelming forces, Stannis loses and Tyrion's gallant attempts to save King's landing are shown up by his father saving the day. The Lannisters win is a blow for the Starks.

What's the point of view?

Multiple points of view characters. Heavy use of **Dramatic Irony**.

What is the Beginning Hook, Middle Build, Ending Payoff?

BEGINNING HOOK

Tyrion becomes Hand of the King, tries to prepare for war and rein in Joffrey's worst instincts. Meanwhile, others lay claim to the throne Renly Baratheon, Stannis Baratheon, Robb Stark sends Caitlyn Stark to broker an alliance with Renly Baratheon. Daenerys is weakened.

Middle Build: Robb wins a decisive victory against the Lannisters at the Battle of Oxcross and angers Joffrey. Littlefinger convinces Catelyn to exchange Jamie Lannister for her daughters. Tyrion uses subterfuge to find Wildfire to use in the upcoming battle against Stannis. Daenerys takes refuge in the city of Qarth. Theon betrays the Starks and takes on Winterfell but the children manage to escape.

End Payoff: As Stannis bears down on King's Landing, Tywin must decide whether to ride for King's Landing or move against Robb. Tyrion leads the first attack against Stannis but it's his father Tywin who saves the day and destroys Stannis. The Lannisters form an alliance with the Tyrells through marriage. Daenerys fights and plunders Xaro's treasure ready to buy ships to sail to Westeros.