

5. Without too much emphasizing, include what your character
 - a. wants
 - b. show how they change as a person by getting what they need
 - c. name what's at stake
 - d. give the audience a sense of the problem
6. Ensure you include the **five commandments** of storytelling
 - a. Inciting Incident: Can happen off-page, but the listener must be able to say what must have led to the characters' initial situation
 - b. Turning Point Progressive Complication: Please include the moment that throws your song's main character into a crisis.
 - c. Crisis/Climax: You can say it out loud like "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not", or jump straight ahead to the character's decision but the listener needs to be able to assume what the crisis must have looked like.
 - d. Resolution: Show how your character's love story has evolved to a better place.
7. To make this exercise easier, I'll also include a lyric commentary to "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not" BELOW so that you can see where the different storytelling aspects appear in the lyrics. That lyric commentary is included in the exercise.

Development Engine – 3 Boxes for "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not"

1. Two people are attracted to each other and about to share their first kiss – "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not."
2. Lovers get engaged. – "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not."
3. Lovers get married. – "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not."

LYRIC COMMENTARY

Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not lyrics © Music Of Cal Iv, Sexy Tractor Music, Spirit Catalog Holdings, S.a.r.l., Spirit Catalogue Holdings, S.a.r.l.

We were sittin' up there on your momma's roof

Setting Description: Where & Literal Action,
POV: Direct Address

Talkin' 'bout everything under the moon

Setting Description: When & Literal Action

With the smell of honeysuckle and your perfume

Sense Description further paints the setting

All I could think about was my next move

State of mind of Character, initial want



EPISODE 042: "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not" by Thompson Square – How to Create a Smooth and Subtle Narrative Flow

storiesinsongs.com/podcast/episode-042

Oh, but you were so shy, so was I

Problem

Character Development: Starting Point

Maybe that's why it was so hard to believe

When you smiled and said to me

Leading up to the Turning Point Progressive Complication

"Are you gonna kiss me or not?"

Turning Point & Crisis

Are we gonna do this or what?

I think you know I like you a lot

But you're 'bout to miss your shot

Stakes

Are you gonna kiss me or not?"

Crisis

It was the best dang kiss that I ever had

Climax

Except for that long one after that

And I knew if I wanted this thing to last

Character WANT / Object of Desire

Essential Tactic

Sooner or later I'd have to ask for your hand

Expression of Character Want

So I took a chance

Bought a wedding band and I got down on one knee

Literal Action following Essential Tactic to get what he wants

And you smiled and said to me

Literal Action

"Are you gonna kiss me or not?"

Love Story Convention: Ritual

Are we gonna do this or what?

I think you know I love you a lot

I think we've got a real good shot

Are you gonna kiss me or not?"

So, we planned it all out for the middle of June

Setting Description: When

From the wedding cake to the honeymoon

And your momma cried

Literal Action



EPISODE 042: "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not" by Thompson Square – How to Create a Smooth and Subtle Narrative Flow

storiesinsongs.com/podcast/episode-042

When you walked down the aisle

Literal Action

When the preacher man said, "Say I do"

Literal Action

I did and you did too, then I lifted that veil

Literal Action

And saw your pretty smile and I said

Literal Action

"Are you gonna kiss me or not?"

Love Story Convention: Ritual

Are we gonna do this or what?

Look at all the love that we got

It ain't never gonna stop

Resolution

Are you gonna kiss me or not?"

Yeah baby, I love you a lot

I really think we've got a shot

Are you gonna kiss me or not?

Love Story Convention: Ritual



EPISODE 042: "Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not" by Thompson Square – How to Create a Smooth and Subtle Narrative Flow

storiesinsongs.com/podcast/episode-042