

16 Complicated Movie Plots Explained With Infographic Timelines



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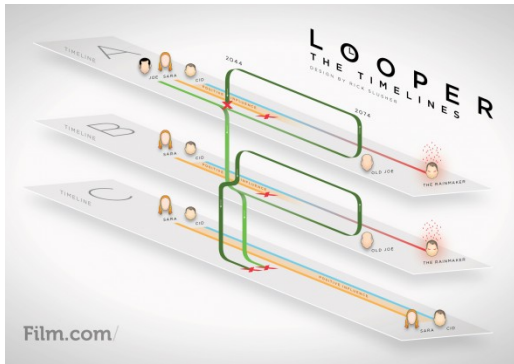
Drew Skau (<http://www.scribblelive.com/blog/author/drew/>)

August 26th, 2013

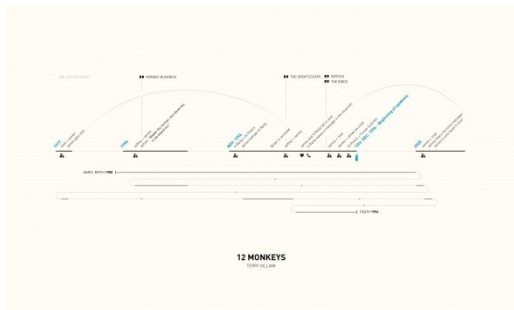
Movies often have complex plots, tell their story out of order, or involve time travel. Those things create loops in the storyline that can be difficult to follow at first viewing. Watching a movie a second time (and third, fourth, and so on) can help — and so can infographics. Here are 16 infographics that break down the timelines of some popular movies, organized by genre or storytelling type.

Time Travel Movies

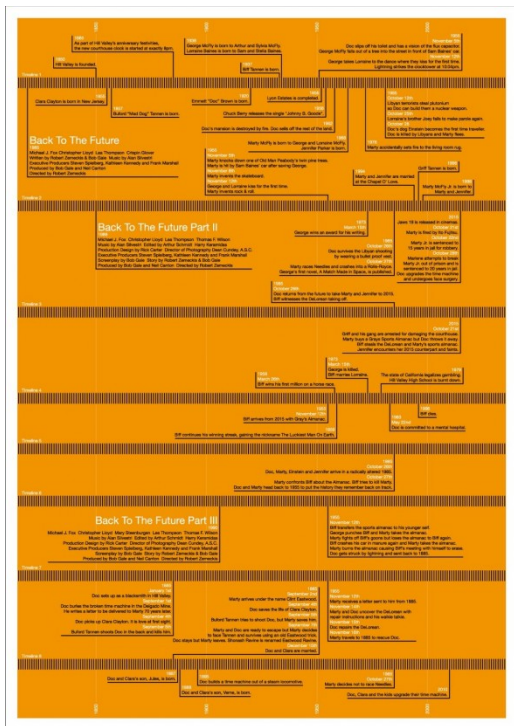
Movies with time travel can be hard to understand completely. Sometimes the relative time differences are hard to grasp, and the relative duration spent in each time can be hard to measure. These infographics put those wibbly wobbly timey wimey (<http://blog.visual.ly/doctor-who-infographics/>) timelines into a visual format to make them easier to grasp. **Looper** (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1276104/>)



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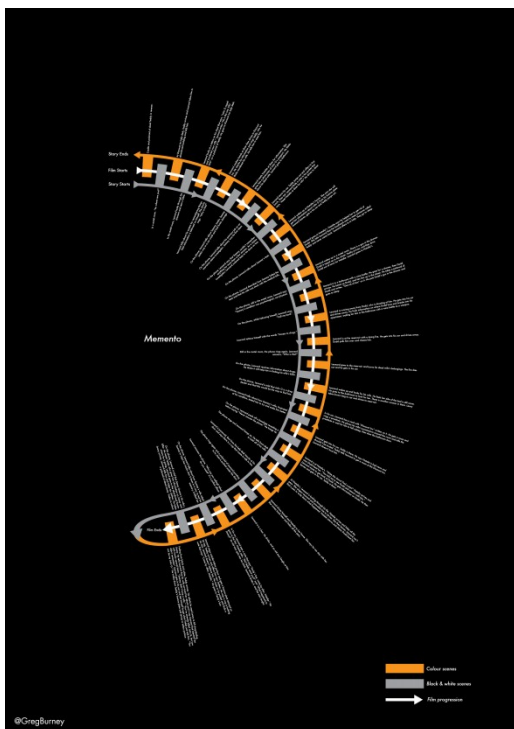
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Non Linear Storytelling

Even if a plot doesn't involve time travel, some movies tell their story out of order. This helps to create suspense and keep the viewer engaged, but can be confusing. These infographics put movies back in chronological order. [21 Grams](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0315733/) (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0315733/>)

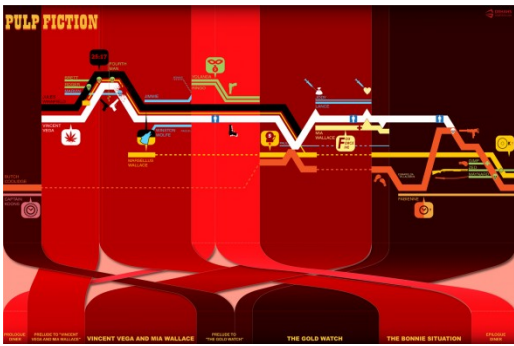


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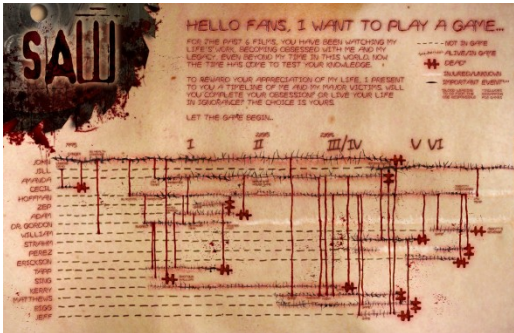


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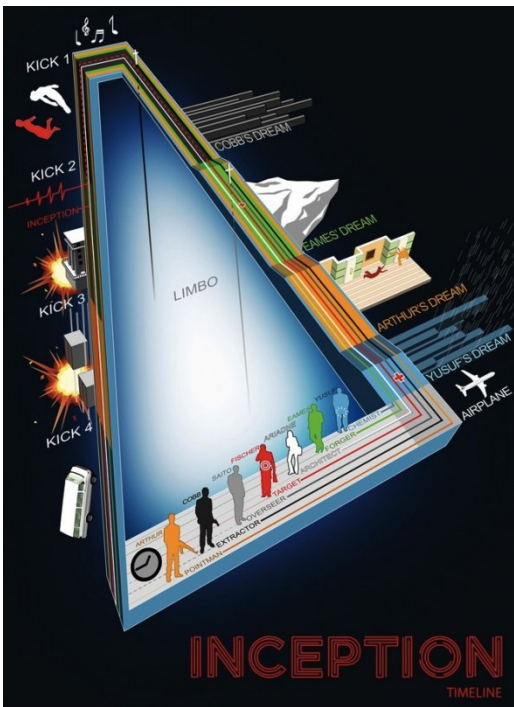
[Pulp Fiction](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0110912/) (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0110912/>)



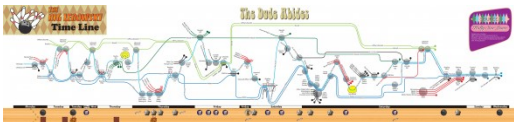
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 Sometimes directors and script writers include information at the beginning of a movie, but the viewer doesn't know that info was important until the end of the movie. This technique can add a lot of depth to the plot, and certainly adds to repeated viewing — but it also confounds the viewer. These infographics help you figure things out. Saw (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0387564/>)



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 Inception (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1375666/>)



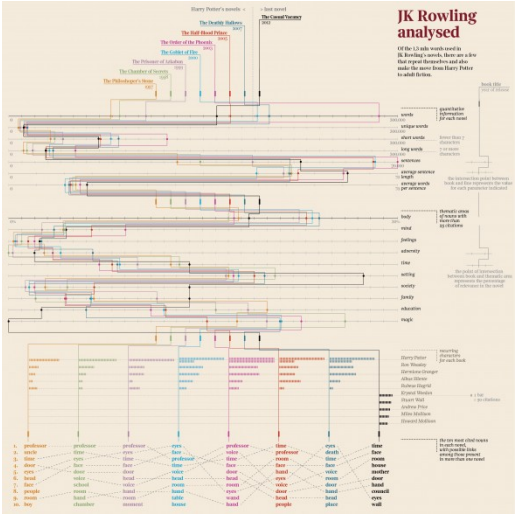
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 The Big Lebowski (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0118715/>)



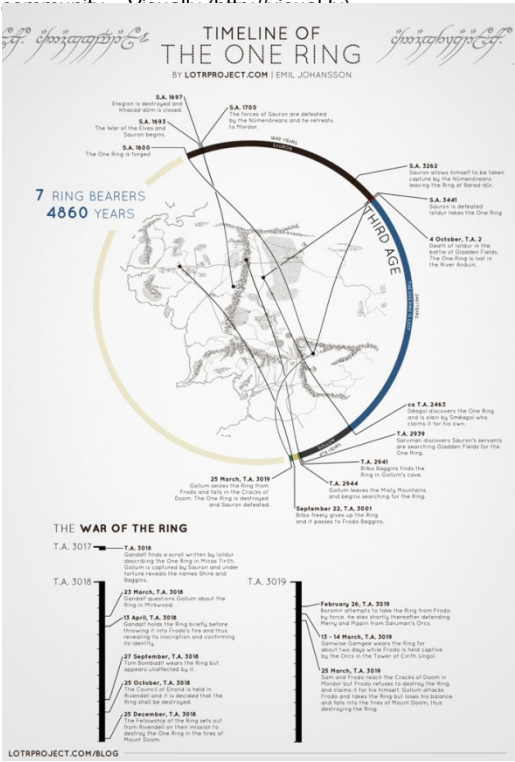
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Complex Character Interaction

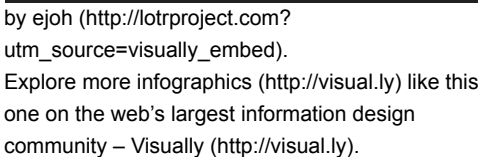
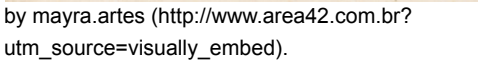
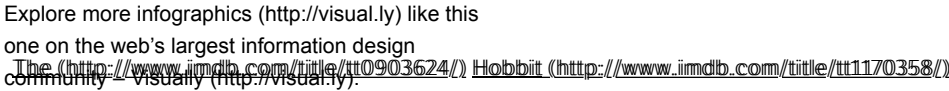
Some movies just have a large roster of characters with parallel timelines and different scene settings. This leads to a complex set of interactions between characters that can be diagrammed well. **Harry Potter** (<http://www.imdb.com/list/q22zEUsH3MQ/>)

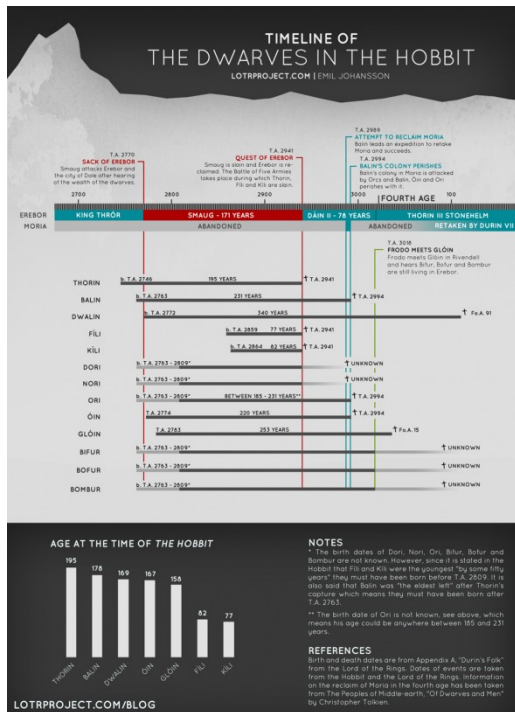


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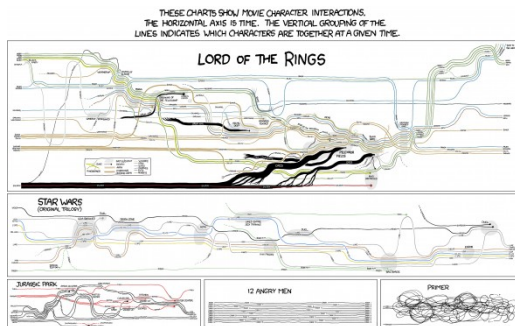




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Movies use lots of interesting techniques to engage their audience, make the plot work, increase suspense, and enhance the story. Sometimes these techniques can get confusing, but in most cases, a visual diagram can clarify everything. [Drew Skau](http://visual.ly/users/seeingstructure) (<http://visual.ly/users/seeingstructure>) is Visualization Architect at [Visual.ly](http://visual.ly) (<http://visual.ly>) and a PhD Computer Science Visualization student at [UNCC](http://www.uncc.edu/) (<http://www.uncc.edu/>) with an undergraduate degree in Architecture. You can follow him on twitter [@SeeingStructure](http://twitter.com/SeeingStructure) (<http://twitter.com/SeeingStructure>)

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