

INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSION FEEDBACK REPORT

TITLE	THE SEVEN AND THE ART OF PERSPECTIVE
READER ID NUMBER	BRNWF27
YEAR	FILM 2016

READER SYNOPSIS OF IDEA	Zach, a young orphaned boy, is told he has the power of magic, and enters the magical world – or is it all just in his head?
SCRIPT EXTRACT	The extract contains some compelling themes – the interaction between fantasy and reality, for example, and independence is a central theme in the discussions between Zach and Gran Daze. The sequences in the magical world are action-packed, and move at a far greater pace than the hospital sequences. The writer should consider the balance between the magical parts, and the parts set in the outside world: at present the magic – the more interesting element of the film – takes up only two of the nine pages. The writer should also be careful of the obvious <i>Harry Potter</i> comparisons – there’s more than one story that can be written about an orphan wizard boy, but alarm bells start ringing when they start having wand battles with Latin-esque spells. Can the brand of “magic” in this film be made more unique? There’s some great flashes of description in the extract: the moments before Zach wakes up, in which we’re told that “the scene is now blurred and slowed down as ringing sounds...” is a particular highlight. The writer should be careful, however, to make sure that description is as succinct as possible, and limited only to things that will be visible on screen. In the hospital, we’re told that David is “wearing a lab coat and is obviously a doctor”; it would be simpler to just say “David, a doctor”. We’re told that he has “a look” which tells us what he knows what he’s doing, but how will this come across? Be careful, also, to use description only where appropriate: we’re told in various scene headings that “ZACH [is] IN DEEPER PAIN”, and “SEVEN DOCTORS ARE SURROUNDING JACK”. Customarily the scene heading is used only to list where the scene takes place, whether this is inside or

	outside (INT./EXT.) and the time at which it happens.
TREATMENT	The world of magic brings an intriguing quality to this treatment, and the “coma” aspects – it’s left unclear as to how “real” the events of the film are – are certainly original, though it’s not obvious exactly what this adds to the story itself. If it’s hinted at that Zach’s experiences aren’t actually happening, it may make it difficult for an audience to invest in his story; but if there’s no sign of this (we’re told that “this will not be obvious to the audience”), then what’s the point of including it? The treatment also stops short of telling a complete story – it ends with Zach learning that he’s a wizard, when surely it’s the events after this, with Zach learning to control and use his newfound powers, which will form the main body of the film. Ideally, a treatment should flow like a short story, with a clear beginning, middle and end, telling us exactly what happens and how the characters develop.
CHARACTERISATION	The breakdowns do a good job of describing the characters’ roles and powers – Zach, for example, has the “power of water” – but are relatively weak when it comes to explaining their personalities. Take Stona, for example: the nearest we get to her personality is that we’re told she’s “agile and quick” and “seeks revenge”, but there’s little to tell us about how she might behave on screen. Who is she as a person – is she intelligent, impulsive, courageous, spiky? The magical elements are important, but should not get in the way of the writer telling a human story with identifiable characters.
OVERALL COMMENTS	The “coma fantasy” elements of the film make this a unique proposition, despite the familiar elements present in the magical world. The writer should now work to ensure that their treatment tells a complete story: at present it ends at Zach’s entry to the magical world, a point at which the story is only just beginning. The writer should also ensure that the characters’ personalities come across more clearly in the character breakdowns – they should be unique in more respects than simply their varied magical powers.