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Abstract

Gifted, the film directed by Marc Webb released in 2017, details the story of a single man named Frank (Chris Evans) raising his young niece Mary (McKenna Grace), who just so happens to be a 7-year-old genius. He plans for her to live a normal life; go to public school, make friends, play sports, truly be a kid, but his mother has something else in mind. McKenna's grandmother Evelyn (Lindsay Duncan) threatens to rip Mary away from her little life in the suburbs, as well as her beloved Uncle Frank. This study analyzes the complexity of the characters in this film. With this analysis, I map the arcs of each character, revealing the choices the screenwriter made to bring to life the characters' individual and unique patterns of growth over the course of the film. I analyze the relationship between character development and story structure, with a heavy focus on the character maps of Frank and Mary.