Paper Story

Logline: We follow the life of a man named Pete, who has loved stories ever since he was little. After his father dies he takes up a job at a book store to help support his family. He continues working there for many years until he finally starts his own book store. However, Pete’s life takes another turn later down the road when he discovers that he has Alzheimer’s. Before he forgets, he makes sure to write down the most important story of all, the story of his own life.

Pete, a young book lover, is reading from a book in one hand as he carries a stack of books in the other. He then walks out of the library he was in, and the scene cuts to when he arrives back at home. He sees his mother crying and clutching on to a letter. Dropping everything he’s holding, he races over to his mother and reads the letter saying that his father had just died in battle overseas. With his mother not getting enough income to support their family, Pete drops out of school and gets a job at a local book store. We see him getting on the bus, but instead of getting off where all the students do, he gets off on the next stop with all the other businessmen in suits. While on shift, we see him picking out books to read and staying in the shop until night time to finish them it up. The camera then passes across all the book shelves. and we see him doing something different in each aisle. First, he’s doing inventory, then he’s behind the cashier, and then he’s helping a client. We see him grow a bit older after each aisle, but in each shot Pete always had a book in his hand. The pages in the book add on to his body to show he’s not only physically grown, but his knowledge has grown too. We cut to a shot with Pete all grown up leaving the book store. He waves bye with a book in his hand and the pages come out to cover the screen and transition to the next scene.

Pete is now in front of a different store that seems very rickety and old. Nevertheless, he proudly stands in front of it. Next, there is a time-lapse of Pete redoing the store to finally reveal his own brand-new book store when he’s done. We then see him flipping the open sign for the first time as he walks in. There is then a montage of Pete flipping the sign multiple times, each time he looks like he’s getting older. In addition to getting older each time, we also see him opening the door with someone new each time. First with his wife, then his daughter as a baby, then his daughter as a kid, and then his daughter all grown up.

One day, we see him walk right past his shop and then walk back looking slightly confused as to where he is. The buildings and people start to crumble and fall. Pete is now alone in white space looking confused and lost. We then see his daughters hand on his shoulder and the set reforms around him. The daughter says that this is not the first time it has happened and she says that they need to go see a doctor. They both get up but the book that was in Pete’s hand remains on the ground. The wind blows the pages away and covers the camera lens and transitions to the next scene.

The book pages turn into hospital diagnoses pages and they land on the doctor’s clipboard. Now in the hospital we see the doctor’s diagnoses showing that Pete has Alzheimer’s, and he doesn’t have long before his memory gets worse. His family’s faces are in disbelief. Pete however, demands for everyone to clear the room and asks for a pencil and a piece of paper. Once he receives his materials, he starts to write. The clock turns for hours and we see a frustrated man trying to write. In an over the shoulder shot we see he’s having trouble just holding a pencil. The paper also sometimes erase the words that were already written and crumbles by itself to show he’s having a hard time remembering his thoughts. Finally, when he finishes he handed his daughter the paper and says, “If I ever want to hear good story, read this to me. I always want to remember my favourite story.”

The characters and set crumple up and reform into the new characters and set for the next scene. We see a father facing the camera sitting in a chair. In front of him with her back turned to us is his daughter.

"This Pete character seems like a smart fellow”, the father says to his daughter. The camera moves to reveal the grandfather’s shirt behind the daughter. On the shirt, we see the words “Pete” on the little pocket square. He looks much older and weaker now than he did before.

“He sure his dad”, the daughter replied, “He sure is."