

MOANA

Breaking Down the Plot

| Story Beat (Minute) | Blake Snyder Beat Sheet | David Trottier's 7 Plot Points | Michael Hague's Six Stage Plot Structure | Five Acts (Freytag's Pyramid) | Three Acts | |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Grandma tells the story of Maui stealing the heart of Te Fiti 1 | Opening Image | The Back Story | Stage 1: Setup | Exposition | | |
| The Ocean gives Baby Moana the heart; Moana accidentally drops the heart 6 | Theme Stated | | | | | Set-Up |
| Moana's dad tells Baby Moana, "You must learn where you're meant to be" 8 | | | | | | |
| Now a teenager, Moana tries to be happy with her role on Motunui 12 | Catalyst | | | | | The Catalyst |
| Serious food problems arise; Moana wants to go beyond the reef to fish, but her father refuses 14 | | | | | | |
| Moana learns that her father also tried to leave once, and his best friend was killed as a result 15 | | | | | | |
| Moana struggles to choose her path 17 | Debate | Stage 2: New Situation | | | | |
| Moana decides to go past the reef, but fails 19 | | | | | | |
| Grandma shows Moana that their people were once voyagers, gives Moana the heart 21 | | | | | | |
| Moana goes to her father and publicly proposes finding Maui to return the heart 28 | | | | | | |
| Dad refuses; Grandma falls ill 29 | Break Into Two | The Big Event | Turning Point #2: The Change of Plans | | | First Act Break |
| Grandma tells Moana to go; Moana leaves with her mom's help 31 | | | | | | |
| Moana discovers Heihei stowed away and almost loses her boat 33 | B Story | Fun and Games | Stage 3: Progress | | | Rising Action |
| A storm hits; Moana asks the Ocean for help 34 | | | | | | |
| Shipwrecked on his island, Moana meets Maui 35 | | | | | | |
| Maui charms Moana and tricks her, stealing her boat; Maui sets sail to retrieve his hook 39 | | | | | | |
| Moana escapes Maui's island and, with the Ocean's help, joins up with a reluctant Maui 43 | Midpoint | The Midpoint | Turning Point #3: The Point of No Return | Midpoint | | |
| Kakamora attack after Moana flashes the heart around; Moana saves the heart 45 | | | | | | |
| Moana talks Maui into helping her by telling him he isn't a hero anymore, but doing this will make him one 51 | | | | | | |
| Maui reluctantly teaches Moana the basics of sailing 52 | Bad Guys Close In | Stage 4: Complications and Higher Stakes | | | | |
| Moana dreams that her island gets destroyed 53 | | | | | | |
| They arrive at the realm of monsters, and Moana jumps in after Maui 55 | | | | | | |
| Maui uses Moana as bait for Tamatoa 60 | | | | | | |
| Maui fails to use his hook 63 | | | | | | |
| Moana creates a distraction and saves them 65 | | | | | | |
| Maui thinks they have no chance of returning the heart, despite being impressed with Moana 67 | | | | | | |
| Maui reveals his past and why he tries to get humans' love; Moana convinces him to try 69 | | | | | | |
| Maui practices with his hook and teaches Moana to be a master wayfinder 71 | | | | | | |
| Maui compliments Moana before the big battle with Te Ka, the lava monster 73 | | | | | | |
| Maui struggles in battle; Moana tries to help and Maui's hook gets damaged 75 | All is Lost | The Crisis | Turning Point #4: The Major Setback | Climax | | |
| Maui leaves ("Without my hook, I am nothing.") 77 | | | | | | |
| Moana tells the Ocean to choose someone else; the Ocean takes the heart back 78 | Dark Night of the Soul | The Climax | Stage 5: The Final Push | Falling Action | | |
| Grandma's spirit visits Moana; Moana understands who she is and what she's capable of 80 | | | | | | |
| Moana retrieves the heart and fixes the boat on her own 82 | Finale | The Realization | | | | |
| Moana faces Te Ka, the lava monster, alone 83 | | | | | | |
| Maui comes to help her just in time 85 | | | | | | |
| Maui sacrifices his hook to save Moana 87 | | | | | | |
| Moana realizes that the lava monster is really Te Fiti, the goddess, deformed by the loss of her heart 88 | Turning Point #5: The Climax | The Climax | Climax | | | |
| Moana confronts Te Ka peacefully 89 | | | | | | |
| Moana returns the heart; Te Ka becomes Te Fiti once again 90 | Final Image | Stage 6: The Aftermath | Denouement | | | |
| Te Fiti gives Maui a new hook and Moana a new boat 91 | | | | | | |
| Moana and Maui part ways, Maui with a new tattoo of their accomplishment 93 | | | | | | |
| Moana returns home 94 | | | | | | |
| Moana leads her people on a new voyage 95 | | | | | | |

This plot breakdown was created by Angela Bourassa for Script Magazine