

Non-Linear (Book-Ending) Story Idea

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GENERAL INFO

The animation begins and ends with a visually similar moment: a closed hamburger box resting on a desk. The middle of the story unfolds out of chronological order, revealing the arrival of fries, unequal consumption, and abandonment. Although the opening and closing compositions are nearly identical, the final shot includes grease and crumbs, showing that time has passed and the moment has been permanently altered.

CREATIVE BRIEF

1. What must it be?

A short stop-motion animation using real food objects on a desktop that demonstrates a book-ending non-linear narrative through visual storytelling without dialogue or text.

2. Who is it for?

This piece is intended for young adults and adults (ages 18–35), particularly students and working professionals familiar with fast-paced routines and interrupted breaks. It appeals to viewers interested in design, animation, and observational humor, especially those who recognize the everyday experience of unfinished meals.

3. How long must it be?

Approximately 60 seconds.

4. What is your objective with the piece?

The objective is to clearly communicate a non-linear book-ending structure while telling a relatable story using minimal movement and everyday objects. The piece aims to demonstrate strong visual clarity, pacing, and narrative comprehension without relying on dialogue.

5. When is it due?

February 15th, 2026

6. What is the overall idea?

A hamburger lunch is interrupted and partially consumed, while the fries disappear quickly and leave. By showing events out of order, the story emphasizes imbalance, interruption, and the quiet aftermath of an unfinished moment.

7. What is the storyline summary?

The animation begins with a single hamburger resting inside a closed takeout box on a clean desk. Moments later, a container of fries enters the frame and positions itself beside the hamburger. In response, the hamburger box lid slowly opens, as if acknowledging the fries' arrival.

Time begins to fracture as the story unfolds non-linearly. The fries start disappearing at a rapid pace, vanishing one by one, while the hamburger is eaten much more slowly. The imbalance between the

two foods becomes apparent: the fries are fully consumed first. Once empty, the fry container quietly exits the frame, leaving the hamburger behind.

The hamburger remains partially eaten, paused in an unfinished state. After a moment of stillness, the box lid slowly closes again, returning the scene to a familiar composition. However, instead of ending on the same clean image as the beginning, the final shot reveals grease stains and crumbs left behind on the desk—evidence of what occurred and proof that the moment has already passed.

8. Elevator pitch:

A hamburger and fries expose the quiet truth of modern breaks: some things get finished, others get left behind.

9. Tagline:

“What remains tells the story.”

10. Look and feel description:

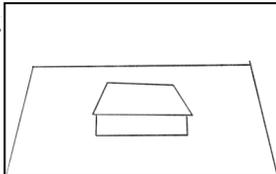
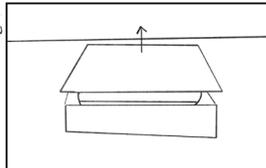
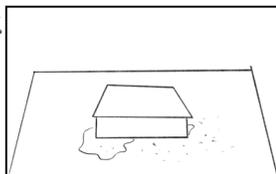
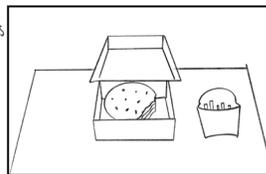
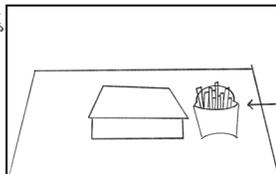
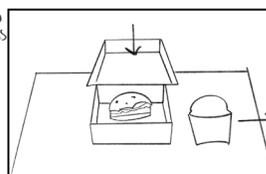
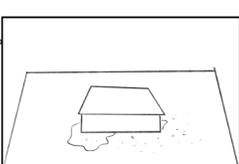
The animation has a minimal, grounded, and observational look. The desk is neutral and uncluttered, allowing the food to stand out. Movement is subtle and deliberate, with long pauses and small shifts rather than exaggerated motion. The tone is quiet, slightly humorous, and reflective.

11. Classic plot:

Role Reversal / Other – Inevitability

The fries, typically a side dish, become the dominant force, while the hamburger is left incomplete. The story focuses on inevitability rather than resolution.

STORYBOARDS

<p>1 WS</p> 	<p><u>OPENING BOOKEND</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ CLEAN DESK SURFACE□ SYMMETRICAL, CALM COMPOSITION□ NO MOVEMENT	<p>4 CU</p> 	<p><u>REACTION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ LID SLOWLY LIFTS□ PAUSES		
<p>2 WS</p> 	<p><u>JUMP FORWARD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ DESK NOW HAS VISIBLE GREASE STAINS AND CRUMBS□ HAMBURGER BOX STILL CLOSED□ NO MOVEMENT	<p>5 WS</p> 	<p><u>UNEQUAL CONSUMPTION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ FRIES GRADUALLY DISAPPEAR BETWEEN FRAMES□ HAMBURGER CHANGES MORE SLOWLY□ TIMING CONTRAST EMPHASIZED		
<p>3 WS</p> 	<p><u>JUMP BACKWARD</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ INTRODUCE SECOND CHARACTER□ STOPS BESIDE HAMBURGER□ DESK STILL CLEAN□ BOX REMAINS CLOSED	<p>6 WS</p> 	<p><u>FRY CONTAINER NOW EMPTY</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ CONTAINER EXITS FRAME□ HAMBURGER REMAINS PARTIALLY EATEN□ BOX SLOWLY CLOSSES	<p>7 WS</p> 	<p><u>CLOSING / BOOK END</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">□ SAME FRAMING AS FRAME 1□ HAMBURGER BOX CLOSED AGAIN□ DESK NOW SHOWS GREASE AND CRUMBS□ NO MOVEMENT