

Ironically for a theme song, it's the framework that's missing. There's never an explicit question/principal point.

# Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (Theme Song)

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Clearly a "Rites of Passage" story.  
"Life problem": lady life / rights in each bar  
"Wrong way to fix": Rights / reject Bel Air / hung in the Cab  
"Solution: acceptance": duh!!  
SIX SEASONS!

PROLOGUE

Now, this is a story all about how  
My life got flipped-turned upside down  
And I'd like to take a minute, Just sit right there  
I'll tell you how I became the prince of a town called Bel Air

unnecessary prologue.  
Can safely delete/exclude from the analysis

1 In west Philadelphia born and raised  
On the playground was where I spent most of my days  
Chillin' out maxin' relaxin' all cool  
And all shootin some b-ball outside of the school

Opening Image

5 When a couple of guys who were up to no good  
Started making trouble in my neighborhood  
I got in one little fight and my mom got scared  
She said 'You're movin' with your auntie and uncle in Bel Air'

Set-up  
Catalyst

Stasis = Death  
if nothing happens, the Fresh Prince will burn round West Philly playin' b-ball forever.

10 I begged and pleaded with her day after day  
But she packed my suit case and sent me on my way  
She gave me a kiss and then she gave me my ticket  
I put my Walkman on and said, 'I might as well kick it'

Jackie Bump

Debate! Literally!

First class, yo this is bad  
Drinking orange juice out of a champagne glass.

B-story  
Miles + Walkman  
reconnect FP's roots

Break into Two

Our hero the FP makes conscious decision to "kick it"

15 Is this what the people of Bel-Air living like?  
Hm m m m m this might be alright.

Fun & Games

Could there be a clever deconstruction of the "Promise of the premise" ?!

But wait I hear they're prissy, bourgeois, all that  
Is this the type of place that they just send this cool cat?  
I don't think so, I'll see when I get there

Mid Point

Stakes are raised

20 I hope they're prepared for the prince of Bel-Air

Bad Guy/Come as FP's self-doubt haunts him

the "bad guy" (in this case, the FP's own doubt + prejudice) runs its head + enters the protagonist's life.

Well, the plane landed and when I came out  
There was a dude who looked like a cop standing there with my name out  
I ain't trying to get arrested yet, I just got here

All is Lost

A + B stories cross as two FP's, old life + new life come into conflict.

I sprang with the quickness like lightning, disappeared

Break into Three  
the protagonist "springs" on.

25 I whistled for a cab and when it came near  
The license plate said fresh and it had dice in the mirror  
If anything I could say that this cab was rare  
But I thought 'Nah, forget it' - 'Yo, home to Bel Air'

"Gather the team"  
get in the cab to... "execute the plan"

Dark Night of the Soul

as the FP contemplates which husbands to lose

I pulled up to the house about 7 or 8

30 And I yelled to the cabbie 'Yo home smell ya later'

I looked at my kingdom, I was finally there

32 To sit on my throne as the Prince of Bel Air

Final Image

clear contrast/opposite of opening image.

"high over survives" -> to FP might just stay in the cab ?!

FINALE

"Execute new plan"

# STAY FRESH!