Author and Title Robert Towne's *Chinatown*

Exposition Unifying Devices J. J. Gittes used to work with Escobar until he tried to help a woman in Chinatown who "got hurt," and he guit the force, became a P. I. Water in the desert: fresh and salt (the flooding creek, Mulwray fought with Cross over building a new dam because he wanted the water to belong to the people of L.A., and the previous dam the Pacific, storm sewers and dry gulches, Mulwray's burst and killed hundreds of people. Mrs. Cross loses his bifocals when he drowns Mulwray in his tide pool. Cross is intimidating tide pool, "bad for glass," salt water in Mulwray's landowners and diverting water to land outside L. A. which he's buying under the names of dead people from the Albacore Club. Cross lungs), Jake's nose, the broken bifocals (Mulwray's? plans to make the land part of L.A. and to make a fortune. Mulwray has had a child by her own father and wants to protect her daughter Cross's?) Broken watches and taillights. Chinatown from Cross's doing the same thing all over again. Who killed Mr. Mulwray? Who's diverting water from L. A. and why? Who's the *real* Mrs. Mulwray? What's so "Bad for the Glass"? ACTI ACT III Act I Title Act II Title Act III Title After Jake shows Jake asks a kid Jake visits an Jake finds broken Jake confronts Cross Jake tells Mrs. Jake tells Jake breaks Curley his wife's Mulwray about Mulwray, Evelyn her taillight. glasses, then at Mulwray's house, orange cheating ways, a somebody's then waits at somebody's grove, gets follows her, Evelyn packing, tells him he knows woman posing as made a fool out night for the dumping the beat up. confronts her calls Escobar, the truth. Cross Mrs. Mulwray of him and her, water to come, about the girl confronts her about drives him to city's water Evelyn's hires Jake to spy supply into the the girl. "She's my and Mrs. almost drowns. there when she's Chinatown at on her husband. A "midget" calls ocean; Hollis he wakes up. keeping sister. She's my gunpoint, and Evelyn Mulwray drops Gittes and his the charges, him "nosy," knew and he against her daughter. She's my shoots Cross, They splits his nostril discover that will. "She's men follow hires Jake to was murdered. sister and my winging him. Jake with a dead people my sister," daughter." Jake tries to explain, but find out who it is. He accuses Mulwray, who watches the L.A.'s tells her to meet Escobar stops him. Mr. Mulwray switchblade. He Evelyn again, are buying Evelyn says. Jake gets a turns up dead, says she's a him in Chinatown. Jake stops Escobar, water flow at confronts up land. late call, Evelyn. "I like liar. Jake visits night. The real drowned where They make Escobar arrests but a cop shoots my nose. I like Evelyn through the Cross, who finds the fake Mrs. Mulwray it's supposed to love, and she him, but Jake fools shows up and breathing hires him to eye. Cross gets the be dry. gets an Mrs. Mulwray him. Curley helps through it." "find the girl." Jake and Evelyn girl. "Come on, Jake, sues Jake. urgent call. murdered. it's just Chinatown." escape. ACT III ACT I **ACT II** Doing his job—detective work in petty domestic disputes—Jake Jake investigates who's responsible for his injured nose, the Jake discovers Evelyn's dark secret, her evil father, stumbles upon a much greater detective story: Who's making a murders, the diverted water, but he keeps running into red who's willing to do anything to increase his huge fool of him, killing people, diverting water from L.A.? herrings, and Evelyn's won't tell him the truth. fortune.

Ida Sessions, pretending to be Evelyn Mulwray, hires Jake to follow Mr. Mulwray and to find the girl he's having an affair with.

Inciting Incident