



# JUNO

## Logline

When sixteen-year-old Juno gets pregnant after a one-time sexual encounter with her best friend and decides to give the baby up for adoption to a yuppie couple, she comes of age while navigating tough choices, first love, broken hearts, and the emotional complexities of family.

## Genre

Comedy, Drama, Romance

## Top Keywords

pregnancy, adoption, teenage, romance, friendship, family, divorce, abortion, school

## Location Setting

Suburban Minnesota

## Script Score

1. Character Development: 8/10 - The main characters like Juno, Bleeker, Bren, and the adoptive couple are well developed with distinct personalities, backgrounds, goals, and flaws. The supporting characters serve their purpose but lack depth.
2. Plot Construction: 9/10 - The plot has a clear beginning, middle, and end structure. Juno's unplanned pregnancy propels the events, and her journey through the pregnancy and decision to give the baby up for adoption provides continuity. The various plot points generally tie together nicely.
3. Dialogue: 9/10 - The dialogue effectively captures the voices of teenagers. It showcases Juno's witty, irreverent personality and her chemistry with other characters. The banter and comedic elements land very well.
4. Originality: 8/10 - The concept of an offbeat pregnant teenager is fairly novel. But the themes of an unplanned pregnancy, family relationships, and coming-of-age are common. The execution and lead character do provide some fresh perspective.
5. Emotional Engagement: 7/10 - Juno's emotional journey and personal growth somewhat resonate. But the treatment of relationships lacks depth and the quirkiness creates some emotional distance. The ending provides closure but not a profoundly moving payoff.
6. Theme and Message: 7/10 - The themes about relationships, sacrifice, and responsibility come through but aren't fully realized. The message celebrating individuality and unusual families is clear. But more resonance is needed for

high impact.

Overall Rating: 8/10

In summary, it is a well-executed screenplay with a unique lead character and an offbeat comedic sensibility. But the emotional stakes and thematic impact can go deeper. The story construction and dialogue are excellent, and there is a lot to like about the characters and premise.

## **Synopsis**

The screenplay follows 16-year-old Juno who becomes pregnant after a one-time sexual encounter with her best friend Paulie Bleeker. She decides to give the baby up for adoption to married couple Mark and Vanessa Loring, but complications arise when Mark reveals he is leaving Vanessa. Juno encourages them to work it out, as she wants the baby to go to a stable two-parent home. Juno gives birth and gives the baby boy to a now-single Vanessa, who happily takes him as her own. In the end, Juno and Paulie rekindle their friendship and romantic feelings, as Juno comes to terms with giving her baby a better life with Vanessa.

## **Plot Assessment and Enhancement**

What's working well:

- The premise of a pregnant teenager deciding to give her baby up for adoption is an interesting hook that draws the reader in. Juno is a likeable, quick-witted protagonist that the audience can relate to.
- The relationships between characters, especially Juno and Bleeker, Juno and her parents, and Juno and the adoptive couple Mark and Vanessa, are complex and evolve over the course of the story. This keeps things engaging.
- There's a good balance of humor and drama. The script tackles serious themes but also has plenty of snappy dialogue and funny situations that lighten the mood.
- The character arcs, especially Juno's journey to maturity and responsibility, feel authentic. Secondary characters also show growth.

What could be improved:

- The subplot with Mark leaving Vanessa feels a bit contrived, as if it was introduced just to inject more drama. Their relationship issues could use more nuance.
- Some plot points, like Juno's initial decision not to abort the pregnancy, happen very abruptly. More setup could make her choices feel more natural.
- The resolution, with Vanessa deciding to adopt as a single mother, comes about quickly. Juno's hospital note swaying her so completely is a little hard to buy.

- The script is dialogue-heavy at points. Trimming some exchanges could help vary the pacing and allow more room for visual storytelling.

Overall, the core story really works and draws the reader in on an emotional level. Addressing some of the plot contrivances and pacing issues could make it even stronger. The characters and humor are already excellent.

## **Character Profiling**

### Juno MacGuff

16-year-old high school girl who gets pregnant after a one-time sexual encounter with her friend Paulie Bleeker. Decides to give the baby up for adoption to married couple Mark and Vanessa Loring rather than get an abortion. Develops a friendship with Mark, the husband, but realizes he is not ready for fatherhood and his marriage to Vanessa is struggling. Has the baby, a boy, and gives him to Vanessa to raise as a single mother. Ends up in a romantic relationship with Paulie Bleeker in the end.

#### What's working well:

- Juno's maturity and responsibility in handling her pregnancy and the decision to give her baby up for adoption show a depth of character.

- Her ability to navigate complex emotional landscapes, such as her relationships with Paulie, Mark, and Vanessa, adds richness to the story.

- Juno's unique voice and perspective bring humor and relatability to the narrative, making her a compelling protagonist.

#### Areas to Improve:

- The development of Juno's relationship with her own parents could be further explored to give more background on her character.

- Her decision-making process regarding the adoption could be delved into more deeply to provide insight into her emotional journey.

- The impact of the pregnancy on Juno's future aspirations and life plans is touched upon but could be expanded.

### Archetype: The Creator

### Paulie Bleeker

Juno's best friend who she has sex with once, leading to her pregnancy. Is shocked when he finds out Juno is pregnant with his child but supportive of her adoption plan. Starts dating another girl, Katrina, briefly. Realizes he has deeper feelings for Juno and they end up in a relationship in the end, raising their son together.

#### What's working well:

- Supportive of Juno's decision regarding the adoption plan, showcasing his maturity and understanding.

- Displays genuine care and concern for Juno, indicating a deep emotional connection.

- His realization and acceptance of his deeper feelings for Juno contribute positively to his character development and the story's resolution.

Areas to Improve:

- His initial shock and lack of preparedness for Juno's pregnancy could be explored more to show a more nuanced reaction.

- The brief relationship with Katrina is not deeply explored, missing an opportunity to further develop his character's emotional depth and complexity.

- His journey from shock to acceptance and support happens relatively quickly, which could be expanded to show more of his internal struggle and growth.

Archetype: The Lover

Vanessa Loring

Eager to adopt Juno's baby with her husband Mark. Devastated when Mark says he doesn't think he's ready to be a father. Decides to raise the baby as a single mother after splitting up with Mark. Overjoyed when she finally gets to raise Juno's son as her own.

What's working well:

- Vanessa's determination and resilience in the face of personal and marital challenges show her strong character.

- Her ability to embrace single motherhood, despite the initial plan of raising the child with Mark, highlights her adaptability and commitment to her desire to be a mother.

- Vanessa's emotional journey and eventual joy in becoming a mother add depth to her character and provide a satisfying resolution to her storyline.

Areas to Improve:

- Vanessa's character could be further developed by exploring her background and motivations for wanting to adopt more deeply.

- The screenplay could show more of Vanessa's life outside of her interactions with Juno and Mark to give viewers a fuller picture of her character.

- Her coping mechanisms and emotional processing during the breakup with Mark and transition to single motherhood could be more detailed to add complexity to her character.

Archetype: The Caregiver

Mark Loring

Vanessa's husband who agrees to adopt Juno's baby. Develops an inappropriate friendship with Juno and starts having doubts about the adoption and his marriage. Tells Vanessa he doesn't think he's ready to be a father, leading to their separation. Does not end up raising Juno's child.

What's working well:

- His initial willingness to adopt and provide a loving home for Juno's baby shows a compassionate side.
- His ability to connect with Juno on a personal level, sharing interests in music and films, adds depth to his character.
- His honesty about his feelings towards fatherhood and his marriage, although painful, demonstrates a level of self-awareness.

#### Areas to Improve:

- His inability to fully commit to the adoption and his marriage creates instability and hurt for those involved.
- The development of an inappropriate relationship with Juno, a teenager, is problematic and detracts from his character's integrity.
- His indecisiveness and eventual decision to leave Vanessa highlight a lack of maturity and responsibility.

#### Archetype: The Explorer

#### Bren MacGuff

Juno's stepmother who supports her through the pregnancy and adoption process. Ends up happy raising her young daughter and two dogs after Juno moves out.

#### What's working well:

- Provides emotional support to Juno during her pregnancy, showing understanding and compassion.
- Acts as a mediator and voice of reason within the family, helping to navigate the complex emotions and decisions involved in Juno's pregnancy.
- Demonstrates strong maternal instincts not only towards her biological child but also towards Juno, highlighting her capacity for unconditional love and acceptance.

#### Areas to Improve:

- Could further develop her own backstory or personal challenges to add depth to her character and motivations.
- Her relationship with Juno could be explored in more depth, including how they navigate the transition from a step-parent/step-child relationship to a more maternal bond.
- The screenplay could show more of her own struggles or conflicts to provide a fuller picture of her character beyond her role as a supportive stepmother.

#### Archetype: The Caregiver

### **Main Character Casting**

#### Juno MacGuff

- Kiernan Shipka: Kiernan has demonstrated a strong ability to convey complex emotions in 'Chilling Adventures of Sabrina', making her a great fit for Juno's witty and emotionally nuanced character.

- Elsie Fisher: Elsie's breakout role in 'Eighth Grade' showcased her ability to authentically portray the trials and tribulations of teenage life, aligning well with Juno's journey.
- Sophia Lillis: Sophia's performances, especially in 'I Am Not Okay With This', have highlighted her skill in playing characters that are dealing with personal and societal challenges, similar to Juno.
- Isabela Merced: Isabela has a dynamic range that could easily adapt to Juno's quirky and determined personality, as seen in her roles in 'Dora and the Lost City of Gold'.
- Thomasin McKenzie: Thomasin's role in 'Leave No Trace' has proven her capability to carry films with a mix of strength and vulnerability, traits essential for Juno.
- McKenna Grace: McKenna's performances often exude a maturity beyond her years, making her a suitable candidate for the wise-beyond-her-years Juno.
- Millie Bobby Brown: Millie's work in 'Stranger Things' has shown her ability to navigate complex emotional landscapes, a skill necessary for portraying Juno's character.
- Joey King: Joey has taken on diverse roles in her career, demonstrating her versatility as an actress, which would be beneficial in capturing Juno's multifaceted personality.
- Abigail Breslin: Abigail's early work, especially in 'Little Miss Sunshine', showcases her ability to handle roles that require a balance of humor and depth, similar to Juno.
- Hailee Steinfeld: Hailee's performance in 'True Grit' and 'Edge of Seventeen' has displayed her proficiency in playing strong, independent young women, aligning with Juno's character.

#### Paul Bleeker

- Timothe Chalamet: Chalamet's youthful appearance and ability to convey deep emotions with subtlety make him an excellent choice for the sensitive and somewhat awkward character of Paul Bleeker.
- Lucas Hedges: Hedges has demonstrated a knack for playing complex teenage characters in films like 'Lady Bird', making him well-suited to portray Bleeker's nuanced personality.
- Noah Jupe: Jupe's performances often bring a level of authenticity and vulnerability that would align well with Bleeker's character, especially in the context of teenage fatherhood.
- Finn Wolfhard: Known for his roles in 'Stranger Things', Wolfhard has the right mix of awkward charm and sincerity needed for the role of Paul Bleeker.
- Asa Butterfield: Butterfield's experience in playing socially awkward yet deeply emotional characters makes him a strong candidate for Bleeker, highlighting the character's gentle nature.
- Jack Dylan Grazer: Grazer's energetic performances and ability to handle both comedic and serious moments would bring a dynamic aspect to Bleeker's character.
- Charlie Plummer: Plummer's performances often exude a quiet strength and vulnerability, aligning well with Bleeker's supportive yet confused demeanor.
- Alex Wolff: Wolff has a proven track record of portraying emotionally complex roles in a relatable manner, fitting for Bleeker's character arc.
- Nick Robinson: Robinson's ability to portray both the awkwardness and depth of teenage characters makes him a

suitable choice for the role of Paul Bleeker.

- Tye Sheridan: Sheridan's performances often convey a sense of innocence and sincerity, essential for capturing Bleeker's character and his journey through the narrative.

Mark Loring

- Chris Pratt: Chris Pratt has the affable charm and comedic timing needed for Mark, along with the ability to convey deeper emotional undercurrents, as seen in roles like 'Guardians of the Galaxy' and 'Parks and Recreation'. His American background aligns with the character's nationality.

- Jake Gyllenhaal: Jake Gyllenhaal's versatility in both dramatic and lighter roles, such as in 'Demolition' and 'Nightcrawler', makes him a strong candidate. His ability to portray complex emotions fits the character's journey.

- Adam Driver: Adam Driver has demonstrated a profound depth in character portrayal in films like 'Marriage Story'. His unique blend of intensity and vulnerability could bring a compelling layer to Mark Loring.

- Joseph Gordon-Levitt: Joseph Gordon-Levitt's performances in '500 Days of Summer' and '50/50' showcase his ability to handle both the comedic and serious aspects of a character, making him a great fit for Mark.

- Ryan Gosling: Ryan Gosling's roles in 'Blue Valentine' and 'La La Land' display his capacity for playing deeply emotional and complex characters, aligning well with Mark's character arc.

- Ben Affleck: Ben Affleck has the maturity and acting range seen in 'Gone Girl' and 'The Town' to portray the would-be adoptive father, bringing a sense of gravitas and complexity to the role.

- Bradley Cooper: Bradley Cooper's performances in 'Silver Linings Playbook' and 'A Star is Born' demonstrate his ability to navigate both dramatic and lighter moments, suitable for Mark's character.

- John Krasinski: John Krasinski, known for 'The Office' and 'A Quiet Place', has the everyman appeal and emotional depth needed for the role, along with being a familiar American face that fits the character's background.

- Chris Evans: Chris Evans, while known for his role as Captain America, has shown versatility in films like 'Gifted', where he plays a caring uncle. His ability to portray sincerity and warmth makes him a good match for Mark.

- Paul Rudd: Paul Rudd's likable persona and experience in both comedic and serious roles, such as in 'Ant-Man' and 'This is 40', make him an excellent choice for the character, capable of capturing Mark's complexity.

## **Main Character Casting Limited Budget**

Juno MacGuff

- Kiernan Shipka: Kiernan has demonstrated a strong ability to convey complex emotions in 'Chilling Adventures of Sabrina', making her a great fit for Juno's witty yet vulnerable character.

- Elsie Fisher: Elsie's breakout role in 'Eighth Grade' showcased her ability to authentically portray the trials and tribulations of teenage life, aligning well with Juno's journey.

- Sophia Lillis: Sophia's performances often balance strength and sensitivity, qualities essential for playing Juno, as seen in 'I Am Not Okay with This'.

- Isabela Merced: Isabela has a dynamic screen presence and has tackled roles with maturity beyond her years in movies like 'Instant Family', making her a compelling choice for Juno.

- McKenna Grace: McKenna's roles often exude a mix of intelligence and innocence, perfect for Juno's character, as evidenced in 'Gifted'.
- Millie Bobby Brown: Millie's ability to convey deep emotional range in 'Stranger Things' makes her well-suited to explore Juno's complex feelings throughout the movie.
- Abby Ryder Fortson: Abby has shown she can handle roles with a mix of humor and seriousness in 'Ant-Man and the Wasp', aligning with Juno's character arc.
- Emma Fuhrmann: Emma's performance in 'Blended' demonstrated her capability to handle roles that require a balance of comedic timing and emotional depth, similar to Juno's character.
- Joey King: Joey has a proven track record of embodying characters with a strong, independent spirit in films like 'The Kissing Booth', resonating with Juno's personality.
- Sadie Sink: Sadie's portrayal of complex characters in 'Stranger Things' showcases her ability to navigate the emotional landscape of a character like Juno.

### Paul Bleeker

- Timothee Chalamet: Chalamet's youthful appearance and ability to convey deep emotions with subtlety make him an excellent choice for the sensitive and somewhat awkward character of Paul Bleeker.
- Lucas Hedges: Hedges has demonstrated a knack for playing complex teenage characters in films like 'Lady Bird', making him well-suited to portray Bleeker's nuanced personality.
- Noah Jupe: Jupe's performances often bring a level of authenticity and vulnerability that would align well with Bleeker's character, especially in the context of teenage fatherhood.
- Finn Wolfhard: Known for his roles in 'Stranger Things', Wolfhard has the right mix of awkward charm and sincerity needed for the role of Paul Bleeker.
- Asa Butterfield: Butterfield's experience in playing socially awkward yet deeply emotional characters makes him a strong candidate for Bleeker, highlighting the character's gentle nature.
- Jack Dylan Grazer: Grazer's energetic performances and ability to handle both comedic and serious moments would bring a dynamic aspect to Bleeker's character.
- Charlie Plummer: Plummer's performances often exude a quiet strength and vulnerability, aligning well with Bleeker's supportive yet confused demeanor.
- Alex Wolff: Wolff has a proven track record of portraying emotionally complex roles in indie films, making him a fitting choice for the introspective and caring Bleeker.
- Nick Robinson: Robinson's roles often balance sensitivity with a sense of maturity, which would be essential in portraying Bleeker's growth throughout the story.
- Tye Sheridan: Sheridan's ability to convey a wide range of emotions and his experience with coming-of-age stories make him a compelling choice for the role of Paul Bleeker.

### Mark Loring

- Chris Pratt: Chris Pratt has the affable charm and comedic timing needed for Mark, along with the ability to

convey deeper emotional undercurrents, as seen in roles like 'Guardians of the Galaxy' and 'Parks and Recreation'. His American background aligns with the character's nationality.

- Jake Gyllenhaal: Jake Gyllenhaal's versatility in both dramatic and lighter roles, such as in 'Demolition' and 'Nightcrawler', makes him a strong candidate. His ability to portray complex emotions fits the character's journey.

- Ryan Reynolds: Known for his charismatic and humorous roles, Ryan Reynolds can bring a likable yet layered performance to Mark, similar to his work in 'Deadpool'. His Canadian-American background is a good match for the character's American identity.

- Joseph Gordon-Levitt: Joseph Gordon-Levitt has a history of playing nuanced characters in indie films like '500 Days of Summer'. His ability to handle both the comedic and serious aspects of Mark's character makes him a fitting choice.

- Adam Driver: Adam Driver's intense and compelling performances in movies like 'Marriage Story' show his capability to delve into the emotional depth required for Mark, especially in scenes that demand vulnerability.

- Bradley Cooper: Bradley Cooper's range in both dramatic and comedic roles, as seen in 'Silver Linings Playbook', makes him well-suited to portray the complexities of Mark's character, including the nuances of becoming an adoptive father.

- Chris Evans: Chris Evans has demonstrated his ability to play earnest and heartfelt characters in films like 'Gifted'. His American heritage and versatility as an actor align well with Mark's character profile.

- Ben Affleck: Ben Affleck's performances in dramas like 'Gone Girl' and 'The Way Back' showcase his ability to play layered characters. His experience as a father in real life could add depth to his portrayal of Mark.

- John Krasinski: John Krasinski's roles in 'A Quiet Place' and 'The Office' highlight his ability to balance drama with moments of levity, fitting for Mark's character. His everyman appeal and American background make him a relatable choice.

- Paul Rudd: Paul Rudd's enduring charm and comedic talent, evidenced in 'Ant-Man' and 'This is 40', would bring a warm and engaging presence to Mark. His experience in playing likable, nuanced characters would serve the role well.

## Comparative Film Analysis

This screenplay shares elements with several existing movies, each contributing different aspects to the narrative. Here are ten movies that, when combined, could describe the screenplay, along with their box office earnings (as of my last update):

1. **\*\*Juno (2007)\*\*** - The central plot of a teenage girl dealing with an unplanned pregnancy and exploring adoption closely mirrors the screenplay. \*Box Office: \$231.4 million.\*

2. **\*\*Lady Bird (2017)\*\*** - The coming-of-age story and complex mother-daughter relationship echo aspects of the screenplay. \*Box Office: \$78.6 million.\*

3. **\*\*Knocked Up (2007)\*\*** - The theme of unexpected pregnancy leading to personal growth and the comedic elements are similar. \*Box Office: \$219.9 million.\*

4. **\*\*The Edge of Seventeen (2016)\*\*** - This film's exploration of teenage angst, friendship, and family dynamics shares

similarities with the screenplay. \*Box Office: \$18.8 million.\*

5. **Little Miss Sunshine (2006)** - The quirky family dynamics and a journey (literal and metaphorical) that leads to self-discovery are reminiscent of the screenplay. \*Box Office: \$100.5 million.\*

6. **Waitress (2007)** - The theme of an unplanned pregnancy, with the protagonist considering the future of her unborn child while dealing with personal dilemmas, aligns with the screenplay. \*Box Office: \$22.2 million.\*

7. **Jenny's Wedding (2015)** - The film's focus on family reactions to unexpected news and the theme of acceptance is similar. \*Box Office: Data not widely available; considered a smaller indie film.\*

8. **Saved! (2004)** - This movie's satirical take on teenage pregnancy in a conservative community and the protagonist's journey to self-acceptance shares thematic elements. \*Box Office: \$10.1 million.\*

9. **The Kids Are All Right (2010)** - The exploration of non-traditional family structures and the impact on children, as well as themes of identity and belonging, resonate with the screenplay. \*Box Office: \$34.7 million.\*

10. **About a Boy (2002)** - The development of unconventional relationships and the growth of the characters through their interactions, as well as the humor found in serious life situations, are similar. \*Box Office: \$130.5 million.\*

These films, through their exploration of themes such as teenage pregnancy, family dynamics, coming-of-age, and personal growth, combined with their varying tones from comedic to dramatic, provide a comprehensive backdrop to describe the screenplay. The box office figures indicate both the commercial success and the cultural impact of these movies, suggesting that stories exploring these themes resonate with a wide audience.