Part of a Sample Outline for an Essay on “Cathedral” by Raymond Carver

**Thesis:** In Raymond Carver’s “Cathedral,” the speaker becomes less isolated by the end of the story.

1. At the beginning of the story, the speaker is lonely and depressed.
   a. He’s jealous of his wife’s relationship with Robert (see pgs. 82 and 83)
   b. His wife tells him: “You don’t have any friends” (83)
   c. He smokes dope and watches TV until he falls asleep (89)
2. Gradually the speaker begins to change.
   a.
   b.
   c.
3. By the end of the story the speaker has an epiphany about what it is to see through Robert’s eyes.
   a.
   b.
   c.