

Topic: Cadette-Story Tellers

Badge: Screenwriter

Suggested Supplies:

Helpful websites:

<https://www.imsdb.com/> -The Internet Movie Script Database

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/> -Story Starters

https://www.softschools.com/examples/grammar/antagonist_examples/183/ -Antagonist examples

https://www.softschools.com/examples/grammar/protagonist_examples/187/ - Protagonist examples

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/0b/c7/37/0bc737772a37d5f6ed0e29f18f5e3d7b.jpg> -Five parts of a plot

<https://templates.office.com/en-us/screenplay-tm02805802> -Screenplay format template



Steps: (Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step.)

Step 1: Think about the movies or television shows you love. Then examine them for clues as to what makes them work. Look beyond the actors, and focus instead on the characters' words, the Scenery changes, and the situations the screenwriter puts the characters through-and how all three elements work together.

Choices-Do one:

- **Watch one movie or three shows in your favorite genre.** (A genre is a category, like adventure, comedy, or drama.) Take notes on how at least three elements, such as the ones mentioned above make things entertaining. Refer to them for inspiration while working on your own script.
- **Host a script-dissection party with your family.** Watch one movie or three shows in the same genre, then discuss and write down what everyone likes and doesn't like about the script.
- **Read two scripts.** What better way to learn the craft of writing for the screen than by reading a real script? Look for the scripts of your favorite shows or movies, or scripts from shows you've never seen. **Team up with fan adult to look online for a script.**

Step 2: Come up with an idea for a story. Most tales have a beginning that introduces the situation, a middle that builds on the story until it reaches a climax and an ending that shows how everything turns out. Before you can write any of these pieces, you need a basic idea to build your script around.

Choices-Do one:

- **Look into your own life.** Have you had an adventure that could be made into a movie? Did something funny happen at school? Is there a great family story your relatives tell every time they get together? Any of these could be the seed of a great script.
- **Add to a story you already know.** Choose a fairy tale, book, or nursery rhyme and tell how the characters got there or what happened later. How did the old woman end up living in a shoe? After Dorothy, who was the next adventurer in the land of Oz?
- **Play Story Maker.** Divide at least 24 index cards or slips of paper into two piles, one for character and one for situations/settings. Write an idea on each. Then draw two from the character pile and one from the situations/settings pile and see if they spark any story ideas.

Step 3: Get to know your characters. Whatever your story idea, you'll need a protagonist and antagonist. Get to know them by writing a one-page description of each. Use one of these choices to add details, from their hobbies to their jobs to their postures and the sound of their voices. The boxes below might help you get started.

Choices-Do one:

- **Spend some time people watching.** Watch a movie or tv show and take notes on what people wear, how they act, and what they say. Then choose three or four details from your observations to make it part of your characters' personalities and life stories.
- **Exaggerate details about people you know.** Perhaps you know someone who loves red; maybe your character wears only red velvet suits. Or your local newscaster speaks loudly-your character might insist on speaking through a megaphone wherever she goes.
- **Mix and Match.** Take three aspects of people or characters you know and combine them to round out your characters. Your protagonist could have a celebrity's curly hair, a friend's dream of being a pilot, and a neighbor's habit of eating a peanut butter sandwich every day at noon.



Step 4: Build the Plot. You have a story idea and characters. Now you need a plot! A plot is an outline of the situations your protagonist will face. A protagonist's circumstances generally grow more dire as the story unfolds toward the climax, where the protagonist faces their most difficult challenge. (That challenge usually involves something that the antagonist said or did!) [The five parts of a plot](#) chart will help you with this step.

Choices-Do one:

- **Use your imagination.** Challenge yourself to find all the plot twists in the creative corners of your mind.
- **Find your plot twists in the news.** How are protagonists and antagonists acting and reacting in newspapers and magazines? Collect three editions, and hunt through their pages for plot ideas. (use online articles if needed)
- **Use plot twists from a familiar story.** Think about the twists from other stories. In Romeo and Juliet, Romeo misses a very important message from Juliet. In Up, a boy accidentally ends up in a flying house. You could even pull twists from two or three different stories.

Step 5: Write a 12-page script-and share it! It's time to put everything together! Screenplays include not only dialogue, but also descriptions of action that clarify how the scene is intended to look on-screen. See the example below for what details to include. Then pick once choice and write your script.

Choices-Do one:

- **Work Solo.** Some writers prefer to work their magic alone! If that's you, share your script when your finished, perhaps by reading it aloud to your family. You could ask different family members to read different parts.
- **Work with a friend.** Two minds can take creativity to a whole new level-and it's fun to try out dialogue as you go along. Call or video conference with a friend! If your friend is another Cadette earning her Screenwriter badge, try to write a 24-page script.
- **Work with a mentor.** Perhaps a playwright, director or actor; an English or drama teacher; or a film or drama student at a local college would be willing to help. Ask your mentor to give you feedback on your pages.

***Once completed, this badge can be purchased at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/CADETTE-SCREENWRITER-BADGE>.** Currently they are offering Free Shipping on all orders!