

WORKSHEET A:

Building Blocks of a Script

This worksheet will guide you through the steps of starting to think about how stories are told in a visual way. You can see each of the building blocks of a script, followed by the complete script. Each of the steps below are subjects professional screenwriters have to consider in their work.

(1) Start with a story.

Example:

Jim and Sally are talking to each other on the hill. Jim said something Sally didn't like. Sally ran away.

In film terms, this would be describing the **plot**. The **crisis** began when Jim started a conflict with Sally.

(2) Analyze the parts of the story:

All visual stories have **Characters**, **Setting**, **Dialogue**, and **Action**.

Characters and locations are described at the beginning of the scene. Dialogue and Actions are presented in the order they happen. Reassemble the story using these pieces.

a. Characters

Who will be in the movie? What do they look like? How old are they? Are they happy, sad, mean, or something else? How do they know the other characters?

Example of Characters:

Jim is a 9 year old boy who loves school, he is happy and has dark hair.
Sally is a 9 year old girl and Jim's best friend. She does not like spiders.

b. Setting

Where does the story take place? If it happens in multiple places, make sure to let the reader know about the other places. What time of day is it?

Example of Setting:

Jim and Sally are on a large green hill. It is morning. There are flowers and trees.

c. Dialogue

What do the characters say? Who do they say it to?

Example of Dialogue:

Jim: (to Sally)

I have a present for you.

Sally:

What is your present?

Jim:

It is a big spider.

d. Action

What do the characters do? Are there any props?

Example of Action:

Jim hands Sally a big spider.

Sally screams and runs down the hill.

(3) Assemble your script:

EXT. HILL - MORNING

Jim is a 9 year old boy who loves school, he is happy and has dark hair. He is sitting with Sally. Sally is a 9 year old girl and Jim's best friend. She does not like spiders. Jim and Sally are on a large green hill. It is morning. There are flowers and trees.

JIM (to SALLY)

I have a present for you.

SALLY

What is your present?

JIM

It is a big spider

Jim hands Sally a big spider. Sally screams and runs down the hill.

THE END