

## MAKE YOUR OWN PLAY SCRIPT!

Choose your favourite book or film. Or create something totally new. Now you're going to write a play version of it, just like we do at Blue Elephant!

### STRUCTURE and PLOT POINTS

The first thing to do is think about the story structure; The beginning, middle and the end.

You don't need to include every detail. Just the most important parts; who is the **MAIN** character? It is **THEIR** story we are most interested in.

We might need details about other characters, but only those that help tell the main story or add drama to it.

Only include details about other character's here if the main story doesn't make sense without them.

**TASK:** Write 2-4 bullet points describing the main **ACTION** of the story for each section (Beginning/Middle/End). These are called **PLOT POINTS**.

### For example:

#### The Little Red Riding Hood

#### Beginning

- Red Riding Hood decided to take some cakes to her Grandmother.
- To get there she had to go through a scary forest

#### Middle

- On the way a wolf saw her
- The wolf wanted to eat Red Riding Hood, so he asked where she was going.
- He was clever so he went ahead to her Grandma's house
- He ate her Grandma, dressed up as her, and got into her bed!

#### End

- When Red Riding Hood arrived she thought her Grandma looked different.
- She suddenly realised it was the wolf and whipped a pistol from her knickers!
- She shot the wolf dead, made a coat from his fur and noone messed with her again!

In a play the story is usually called another name; **PLOT**.

The **PLOT POINTS** are the main **ACTION** points that tell the story. The bullet points you will write below are the main **PLOT POINTS** for your play.

**Your Story:** .....

**Beginning**

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- 

**Middle**

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- 

**End**

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## CHARACTERS

Before you begin your **PLAY SCRIPT** you will need to think about who your **CHARACTERS** are.

When you **WRITE** a **PLAY SCRIPT** you need to write a **CHARACTER LIST** on the first page. That means write a list of the characters and a short **DESCRIPTION** about them.

This is my **FAVOURITE** part of making a play. You can be so **CREATIVE** thinking about how they **LOOK**, how they **WALK**, how they **SMELL**, how they **TALK**, how they **DRESS**, how they **THINK**. Are they magical? Are they human? If they're human do they walk a bit like a chicken? Do people like them? Do they like people? Are they **SILLY** or **SERIOUS**, or **ANGRY**, or **CLEVER**?

Example **CHARACTER LIST**:

**Red Riding Hood**- An independent brave and kind young girl who likes adventures

**Mother**- Red Riding Hood's mother. Always singing

**Wolf**- A greedy and mischievous wolf who isn't quite as clever as he thinks he is

**Grandma**- Red Riding Hood's grandma. She is not very well and easily taken advantage of

Now do **YOUR CHARACTER LIST**. Don't forget those **DESCRIPTIONS**:

Your **CHARACTER LIST** cont.:

## SCENES

A play is divided into sections called **SCENES**. Each scene takes part in a different **SETTING** e.g. the forest, or Grandma's house.

Red Riding Hood has three different **SETTINGS**:

1. Her House
2. The forest
3. Grandma's House

What different settings are in your play?

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.....

.....

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.....

Red Riding Hood is **SET** in a fairytale land with cottages and forests.

**WHERE** is your play **SET**?

.....

.....

You can also think about **WHEN** your play is **SET**.

Fairytales are outside history and time. But more realistic plays might be **SET** in the Viking times, or the Dinosaur times, or last year 2019.

They also might be SET in the future e.g. 2050.

**WHEN** is your play set?

.....

.....

The **SCENES** tell the different parts of the **STORY** or **PLOT** in order.

Usually there's only one **PLOT POINT** per **SCENE**. But this might be split into different **ACTION POINTS**. For example:

### Scene 3

**PLOT POINT:** The wolf speaks to Red Riding Hood and finds out where she's going.

#### **ACTION POINTS:**

- Red Riding Hood is walking through the forest
- The wolf see's Red Riding Hood
- The wolf charms Red Riding Hood and finds out where she's going
- The wolf leaves and takes a short cut to Grandma's house

# HOW TO PLAN SCENES

We always number our scenes in order. **Scene 1** is the first scene, **Scene 2** is the second scene etc.

Have a go at **PLANNING** your **SCENES**; What is the **SETTING** and **MAIN PLOT POINT** for each **SCENE**?

## Scene 1 SETTING

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.....

## PLOT POINT

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.....

## Scene 2 SETTING

.....  
.....

## PLOT POINT

.....  
.....

Continue Overleaf.

A description of the **SETTING** is included at the start of each **SCENE** in *italics*. Take a look at this **SETTING DESCRIPTION**:

**Scene 1: Red Riding Hood's Kitchen**  
*Red Riding Hood is sat eating porridge at the kitchen table. Her mum is stirring the pot.*

Have a go at writing a **SETTING** and **SETTING DESCRIPTION** for your first **SCENE**:

## Scene 1:

### SETTING

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.....

### *SETTING DESCRIPTION (Italics)*

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**Scene 3**  
**SETTING**

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**PLOT POINT**

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**Scene 4**  
**SETTING**

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**PLOT POINT**

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**Scene 5**  
**SETTING**

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**PLOT POINT**

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**Scene 6**  
**SETTING**

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**PLOT POINT**

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**Scene 7**  
**SETTING**

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**PLOT POINT**

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**Scene 8**  
**SETTING**

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**PLOT POINT**

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.....

**If you have more scenes you can  
create extra sheets....**

## HOW TO WRITE SCENES

Now you've decided on your **CHARACTERS**, your **SETTING** and the **STRUCTURE** of your **PLOT**, you can **WRITE** your **SCENES**.

## DIALOGUE

The **DIALOGUE** is the **CONVERSATION** between characters or the **WORDS** the characters **SAY** to each other.

When writing **DIALOGUE**, you need to write the **CHARACTER NAME**, followed by a **COLON** and then the **WORDS** they **SPEAK**. You don't need to use **"SPEECH MARKS"**

**For example...**

**Red Riding Hood:** My what big ears you have

**Wolf:** All the better to hear you with

**Red Riding Hood:** My what big eyes you have

**Wolf:** All the better to see you with

**Red Riding Hood:** But what big teeth you have

**Wolf:** All the better to eat you with!

You can choose if you want a **NARRATOR**. They set the scene or tell parts of the story that can't be acted out. They usually speak at the **BEGINNING** of the **SCENE**, or **IN BETWEEN SCENES**. They do not act but **TALK DIRECTLY** to the **AUDIENCE**.

## STAGE DIRECTIONS

The **STAGE DIRECTIONS** tell the actor **WHAT TO DO** or **HOW TO SPEAK**.

The **ACTORS** do not read the **STAGE DIRECTIONS** out-loud but **ACT** them out instead.

**STAGE DIRECTIONS** are written in the **PRESENT TENSE**. You write them in **BRACKETS** before or after the **SPEECH**.

**BEFORE:** If it's a direction about **HOW** to say the words, or an **ACTION** without **SPEECH**

**AFTER:** If it's a direction about **WHAT TO DO**

**For example...**

**Red Riding Hood:** (confused) But what big teeth you have

**Wolf:** All the better to eat you with!  
(jumping at Red Riding Hood ready to gobble her up)

**Red Riding Hood:** (whips a pistol from her knickers!)

**Wolf:** AAARGH! (Hides behind a curtain)

**CHECKLIST:**

CHARACTER LIST

NARRATORS (OPTIONAL)

SCENE NUMBER

SETTING DESCRIPTION

DIALOGUE

STAGE DIRECTIONS

**YOU'RE READY TO GO!**

**LOTS OF BLUE ELEPHANT LOVE!**

The most important thing is to **HAVE FUN**. Don't worry if you get some of the rules wrong. As long as you make an **EXCITING, FUNNY, HEARTFELT** play then you've **SUCCEEDED!**



When you've finished writing, why don't you have a go at **ACTING** it out. Who will play which characters? Your teddys, your family, your friends? You could send them the **SCRIPT** and you could all read it out over **ZOOM** or **SKYPE**. Maybe you could **FILM** it too. We would **LOVE** to see it. Send it to [louise@blueelephanttheatre.co.uk](mailto:louise@blueelephanttheatre.co.uk)







