

Writing Playscripts

Knowing the main features to use.

Setting

- Decide where the scene will take place



- Write an introduction that describes the place.

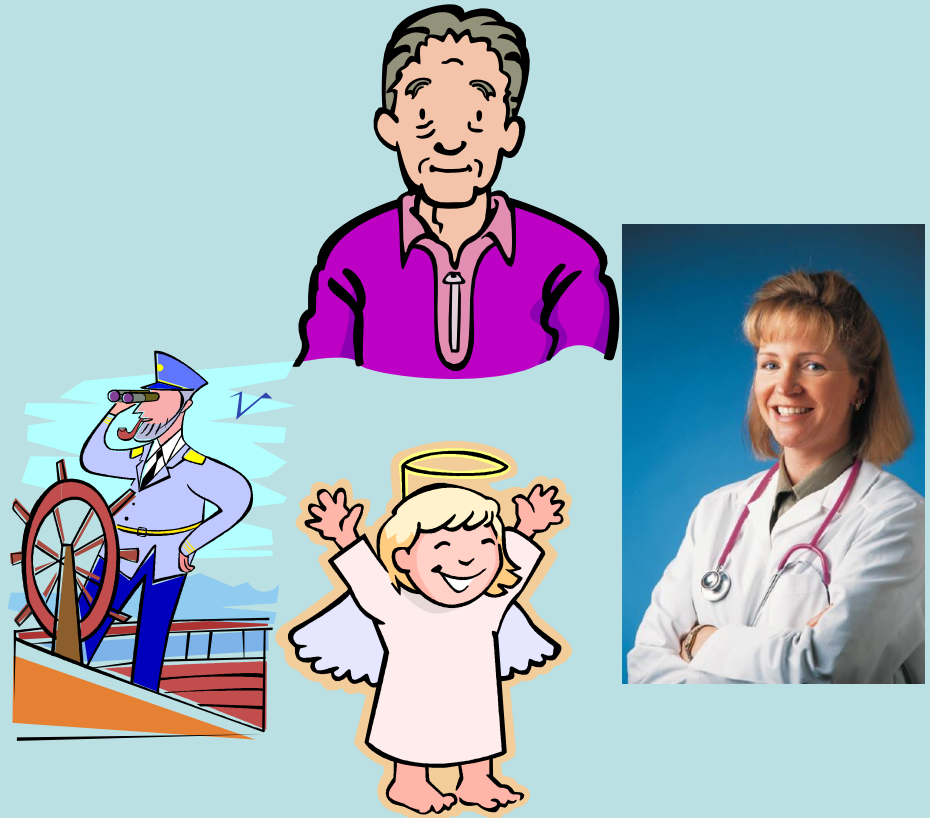


- Or, have the Narrator describe the scene



Characters

- Decide who the characters will be
- Write a short description of each character
- Keep the number of main characters as small as possible
- Give the characters distinctive features



Story

- Know the story before you begin
- Have the different scenes in mind
- The dialogue, or the narrator, has to tell the story
- Keep the story line simple

Layout

- Set the scene (As a short paragraph)
- Start a new line each time a new character speaks
- Put the name of the speaker in a left hand margin, followed by a colon (:)

Peter:

- Give instructions to the character in brackets (*often in italics too*).

(Opening the door to let the King in.)

The words in brackets are not spoken.

Red Riding Hood

List of characters:

Mother: a fussy young lady, wearing an apron

Red Riding Hood: a little girl who wears a red cloak with a hood. Kind and helpful.

Grandma: An old lady who is ill

Wolf:

Woodcutter:



Title

Scene 1

Kitchen of a little cottage

Set the scene

In the kitchen, *Mother packing a basket on the kitchen table, whilst Red Riding Hood puts on her cape.*

Now the script (*directions in brackets*)

Mother: (*Firmly*) Be sure to carry the basket carefully so as not to damage the cakes.

RRH: (*Kindly*) Of course mother, they are so prettily decorated. I wouldn't want to spoil them.

Mother: You know the way? We've been so many times together, you should do.

RRH: Yes, mother I know the way.

Mother: Be sure to keep to the path now, don't wander off and get lost.

RRH: No mother. I'll keep to the path.

Mother: And don't talk to any strangers.

RRH: I won't. *(As an aside to the audience.)* Not that there is ever any one in the woods.

Mother: *(Giving the basket to RRH and kissing her on the cheek)* Do be careful, and give Grandma my love won't you. Tell her I'll be along tomorrow to see that she's alright.

RRH: *(With hand on door handle, turning to face mother)*
I'll be back before you know it. Bye!

Mother: Bye love! Take care! *(Quietly to self)* I do hope she'll be O.K. I don't like her being in those woods all alone. You never know what might happen.



Your task:

To write the next scene of Red Riding Hood when she meets the Wolf in the forest on her way to Grandma's house.

- Follow the same format as Scene 1
- Title
- Set the scene
- Dialogue
- *(directions in brackets)*