

CREATE A SCRIPT FOR YOUR PUPPETS

Warm up with a simple improvisational script-writing game.

Try this by yourself, or with some friends. There are two ways to play.

PULLING FROM PAPER:

1. Write down 1 CHARACTER each on 3 separate pieces of paper: use fictional characters or historical figures, or make up your own character(s), stating their name and a brief description, like their job or something they like to do.

Harry Potter

Bob, an ice cream salesman

Jojo, a purple kitten

2. Write down 1 PLACE each on 3 separate pieces of paper.

The International Space Station

School

The grocery store

3. Write down 1 ACTION word or phrase each on 3 separate pieces of paper.

Watching paint dry

Shouting from the mountaintops

Delivering secret plans

4. Write down 1 LINE OF DIALOGUE each on 6 separate pieces of paper.

"I love to dance, don't you?"

"I just love cheese."

"I can't believe I'm here."

"What is that thing?"

"I like to go ice fishing."

"There's no place like home."

5. Write down 1 ACTION word or phrase in the past tense, each on 3 separate pieces of paper.

"Rode off into the sunset."

"Sang."

"Ate all the bananas."

6. Using your paper(s) for each category, create a story. You can decide what you like best, or randomly choose them. Mix and match with your friends, or pull papers from a hat. Follow this format for your story:

Character Number 1 _____

And

Character Number 2 _____

Were

Place _____

Action _____

Character Number 1 said:

Dialogue _____

Character Number 2 said:

Dialogue _____

And then they

Action _____

Example:

Harry Potter and Jojo, a purple kitten, were at the International Space Station, watching paint dry.

Harry Potter said, "I love to dance, don't you?"

Jojo said, "There's no place like home."

And then they ate all the bananas.

EXQUISITE STORY:

You can also play this game in a similar way to the drawing games “Exquisite Corpse” or “Telestrations.” You’ll need one piece of paper for each player, or you can use the following template. After filling in the first category on the list, fold your paper and pass it to your left. Without looking at what the previous person wrote, fill in the second category, fold, and pass. Continue until each paper is complete with a collaborative (probably nonsensical) story.

Character Number 1:

Character Number 2:

Were (place):

Action:

Character Number 1 said:

Character Number 2 said:

And then they (action):

Now, turn your story into a script. If you like, add a few extra details so your story makes more sense.

CHARACTERS (2-3 CHARACTERS, NAMES & BRIEF DESCRIPTION)

<i>Ex: Harry Potter</i>	<i>A wizard</i>
<i>Ex: Jojo</i>	<i>A purple kitten</i>

SETTING (PLACE/TIME)

<i>Ex: the International Space Station</i>	<i>The year 2075</i>

DIALOGUE (STAGE DIRECTIONS IN PARENTHESIS)

<i>Ex: HARRY POTTER (doing the twist): I love to dance, don't you?</i>
<i>Jojo (nodding): There's no place like home.</i>
<i>Harry Potter: Yes, we have the best dances at home. I miss home, although I love it here on the ISS.</i>
<i>Jojo: I miss home, too. But I'm glad we were able to bring the bananas with us. Let's eat them while we wait for this paint to dry. (They eat the bananas.)</i>

