

CREATIVE WRITING

SCRIPTWRITERS

The 8th-grade class recently took on an exciting and challenging writing task: creating their own scripts. While it may sound like a fun exercise, this challenge pushed their creative writing skills to new heights, as they had to balance several elements to bring their stories to life.

First, they had to ensure their scripts followed the plot chart, incorporating all the essential components of a story: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. But it didn't stop there! Students also had to thoughtfully include stage directions, carefully selecting dialogue that reflected their characters and advanced the plot. Crafting a script meant considering tone, characterization, setting, and diction—skills that required attention to detail and deep thinking.

Nesterenko, Evelyn

NEW

TIME

Afternoon of July 17, 2022

SETTING

Down the street of Emily's house,
Lazy J. Ranch Park, in Valley Circle, California.

AT RISE

Emily is on a walk with her dog and sees a woman
with no place to stay, and is asleep on the bench.
Emily wants to show her kindness.

CHARACTERS

Emily
Lucki, Emily's dog
Rosalina
Jordan, Emily's brother

ACT I

SCENE I

LUCKI. [Gets off her leash and runs away to a bench]

EMILY. [Suddenly] Lucki come back! [She starts chasing Lucki towards the bench and sees her sniffing something on the bench]

LUCKI. [Starts barking at the bench]

EMILY. [Walks towards the bench and and tries to get Lucki away from the bench and gets startled]

ROSALINA. [Gets up from the bench] Hello?

EMILY. Oh sorry for waking you up I was on a walk with my dog. [Picks up Lucki]

ROSALINA. It's ok, do you have any food or spare money you could give me, I haven't eaten for days.

EMILY. No, I don't have food or money on me right now, but here I can go buy you something.

ROSALINA. Actually? [She smiles]

EMILY. Yes of course, I will be right back. [Starts walking away with Lucki in her hands, and she walks to the store]

SCENE II

EMILY. [Goes up to the worker] Do you guys have any lunch packages that come with drinks?

WORKER. Yes we do [Starts leading Emily to the isle with the food]

EMILY. [Grabs three lunch packages and goes to check out, and starts heading back to the park where Rosalina is waiting]

SCENE III

ROSALINA. [She sees Emily a couple feet away with a bag of food and starts thanking her out loud] Thank you so much, may God bless you!

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To make the challenge even more interesting, the theme of generosity was woven into each script, tying into the unit's broader lesson. The students were encouraged to explore different interpretations of generosity, whether it be through actions, words, or gestures, offering a unique insight into how each student views the concept.

Overall, while the task was tough, it proved to be a rewarding experience, allowing the students to flex their creative muscles while reflecting on the importance of generosity in the world around them.

EMILY. Yes, of course. I have to leave right now because I'm late to work, but I'll visit tomorrow.
ROSALINA. No it's ok you don't have to come but mind if I ask you for your name?
EMILY. My name's Emily, and I will come back tomorrow because I have to walk my dog either way [She smiles] What's your name?
ROSALINA. My name is Rosalina, and thank you so much for everything you've brought me.
EMILY. Anytime but now I have to leave, see you tomorrow [She starts walking back towards her house]

ACT II

SCENE I
EMILY. [She wakes up and grabs the leash to go on a walk with Lucki, and grabs some food and water]
JORDAN. Em where are you going?
EMILY. I'm going on a walk with Lucki to the park.
JORDAN. [He looks at the food in her hand and then looks at the dog then her] Is the food for you and Lucki?
EMILY. [She looks at the food and puts it in her backpack] Oh no it's for my friend.
JORDAN. [Confused] What friend and why would they be awake at six thirty in the morning?
EMILY. Come and I'll show you.
JORDAN. Alright [He gets off the couch and puts his shoes on and they all walk out of the house]
SCENE II
JORDAN. [Tired] How long are we going to be walking for?
EMILY. We just left the house. Can you stop being so lazy.
ROSALINA. [She sees them from a distance and gets off her bench]
EMILY. [Walks up to her] Hi Rosalina.
ROSALINA. I told you that you didn't have to come back.
JORDAN. [Confused] Who's this?
EMILY. I'll tell you when we get home. Rosalina I brought you some more food.
ROSALINA. Thank you so much, but please don't bring food next time I can survive a couple days.
JORDAN. Emily, can we please leave? I'm so tired.
EMILY. [Rolls her eyes at Jordan] Take Lucki if you wanna go home.
JORDAN. Ok. [He grabs Lucki and starts walking home]
SCENE II
EMILY. Rosalina, I have a question, do you wanna come live with me and my brother for awhile till you can find yourself a stable job to get yourself a place to stay.
ROSALINA. No, I can't. I just met you and there's no way that you'd let me.
EMILY. [Grabs Rosalina's hand] Please if you don't like living at my house then you can come back but just try for one night. I have food, you can shower, I have new clothes you can have, and I have an extra bedroom no one uses.
ROSALINA. Thank you so much for being so kind, I wish there were more people in our world like you.

Luella Barnes: *(whispers loudly to Betty and shakes her to wake her up)* Betty, Betty! Wake up! We got to go! The house is flooding!
Betty Barnes: *(in a groggy voice)* What? The house is flooding? *(in a surprised voice)* Wait! The house is flooding!
Luella Barnes: *(in a rushed tone)* Yes darlin'! We have got to get in the buggy and go into town where the rain isn't as bad as it is in the farmlands near the river.
Betty Barnes: *(starts crying)* No! I don't wanna leave! Is our house gonna be ok?
Luella Barnes: *(reassuringly)* I ain't gonna lie to you. I do not know! I sure hope it is but I don't know it all! Now let's go!

Scene 3:

(The Barnes family is in their car driving into town, when Betty tells her parents something that takes a lot of gratitude)
Betty Barnes: *(stops crying as she holds the only item that she took with her, a teddy bear)* You know, our house may be in shambles and destroyed when we go back, but at least we have each other. *(looks to Luella)* That's what's most important!
Luella Barnes: *(looks to Roger and winks)* Yes, it is, Betty.
Roger Barnes: We are almost into town, 'bout ten minutes from it.
Luella Barnes: *(worriedly looks at Roger)* Where are we even going to go? We can't just stay on the street all night!
Betty Barnes: *(smiles at Luella)* It's gonna be ok, Mama! We will figure it out together!
(ten minutes later)
Roger Barnes: *(sighs)* Alright, we are here. But we ain't got enough money to stay in a hotel. We can just stay in the car, I guess.
Luella Barnes: *(awns and says sleepily)* Let's all try to get another hour of sleep, ok!

Act 4:

Scene 1:

(They wake up in the morning and go into town to get some food, when Luella remembers that they don't have what they need for it. They also meet Millicent, a rich lady, who is on her way to work in the morning, along with Delilah, the coffee shop worker)
Luella Barnes: Any of y'all hungry? *(laughs to herself)* I know I sure am!
Betty Barnes: *(groans and laughs)* Oh me too, Mama! *(points into the distance)* Look Mama, a coffee shop! Maybe they have food there too!
(they all walk to the coffee shop and go inside)
Luella Barnes: *(to coffee shop worker)* Good mornin'!
Delilah: *(not paying attention to her)* Ugh, another customer!
Roger Barnes: *(under his breath)* This new generation of nobodies, am I right?
Luella Barnes: *(to Betty)* What would y'all like?
Betty Barnes: *(jumps up and down)* Ooh, ooh! Can I have a donut, please?
Roger Barnes: *(to the waiter)* A donut and two bowls of oatmeal, please.
Delilah: *(annoyed)* Ughh, that'll be \$6.87.
Luella Barnes: *(worried and embarrassed)* Um, we ain't got any. I'm sorry, our house flooded last night and we didn't have time to grab the coins.
(Millicent walks into the coffee shop and hears the hickering)