

L2 SPS 2020

Session 6

The screenplay

Is

1. not a novel
2. mostly present tense
3. Formatted according to convention

SCENE HEADING

One line description of the location and time of day

ACTION

The description of the actions in a scene

CHARACTER

Identifies the character who is speaking

DIALOGUE

The lines of speech your character says

INTERCUT

Instructions when cutting to multiple locations

SUBHEADER

Used when there are minor changes in a location

● EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

WE OPEN on a modern suburban home. The front window illuminated by the lights inside. We see the silhouette of a small human figure as it runs back and forth. We push in closer as we slowly see a BOY running around the house.

2 INT. SUBURBAN HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT 2

A GREEN BALL sits on a counter top. A young hand snatches it. It belongs to FILBERT (9), wiry, lost in his own imaginary world. Dressed as a Knight. A toy sword in his other hand.

● FILBERT (V.O.) ●

This is my castle. I am sworn to protect it. Anyone that stands in my way shall bear the wrath of the almighty--

Just then, the babysitter walks by. BECKY (23), trendy, distracted. She is mid-phone call with Filbert's Mom, TRACY.

BECKY

(into phone) ●

Oh yeah, he's being good. He's just fighting orcs or trolls.

● INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

TRACY

Oh that's perfectly normal.

Filbert lifts his sword into the air, lets out a big battle cry, and sprints from the kitchen to --

● HALLWAY

Filbert comes around the corner, distracted by his fantasy, bumps into the wall. His favorite ball slips from his hand. Everything slows down for Filbert.

FILBERT'S POV ●

IN SLOW MOTION - The ball tumbles down the stairs. WE HEAR each bounce echo as the ball travels down the steps.

FADE IN: ●

1 ●

CUT TO: ●

2

FADE IN

Marks the start of the screenplay.

SCENE NUMBER

Generally numbered only in the shooting script

TRANSITION

Used as transitional instructions for editing

EXTENSION

Clarifies where a character is when they can't be seen

PARENTHETICAL

Provides info on how the actor should say the line

SHOT

Indicates the camera angle or movement in a scene

Activity

Write a script which takes place in a laboratory

Remember to use the present tense.

Only write what we can see or hear.