

The background of the cover is a soft, light-colored photograph of a coffee table set. It features a white ceramic coffee cup filled with coffee on a matching saucer, and a white plate with several round cookies. The scene is captured from a high angle, creating a clean and minimalist aesthetic.

SPEEDY

SCREENWRITING

WORKBOOK

by e.m. welsh

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How to Use this Workbook



This workbook is meant to compliment the course, Speedy Screenwriting, and therefore is not a stand alone course to help you write a short film in three days.

To get the most use out of it, work through each lesson after you get the accompanying email.

Though some people don't need to use this workbook to plan out their first short film, for those who need the extra help this workbook can be very helpful.

Every day, set aside around thirty minutes per lesson. You may not need all that time if you already have an idea in your head, though giving your story some extra love never hurt.

With all that in mind, here are some extra tips for success:

- ▶ Set aside a specific timeframe to work on your short film. It doesn't have to be the same time everyday, just make sure it's in your short schedule
- ▶ Do all the "action" items in the emails. They're there to help!
- ▶ Find a screenwriting buddy in the [Facebook group](#). If possible, plan to do the course together
- ▶ Work through the accompanying workbook section whenever you're having trouble
- ▶ [Email me](#) with any other questions! I don't bite!

I can't wait to see what story you turn out!

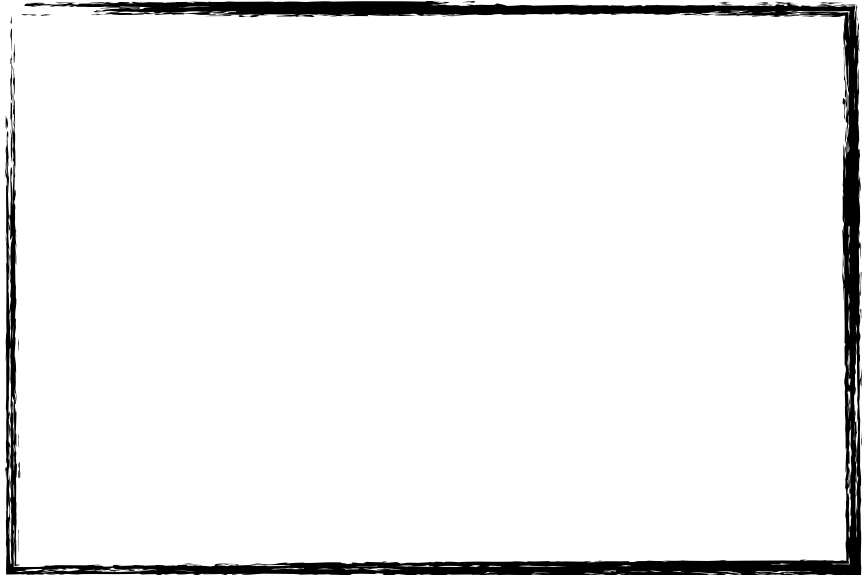
Lesson One: Going From Prose to Screenwriting

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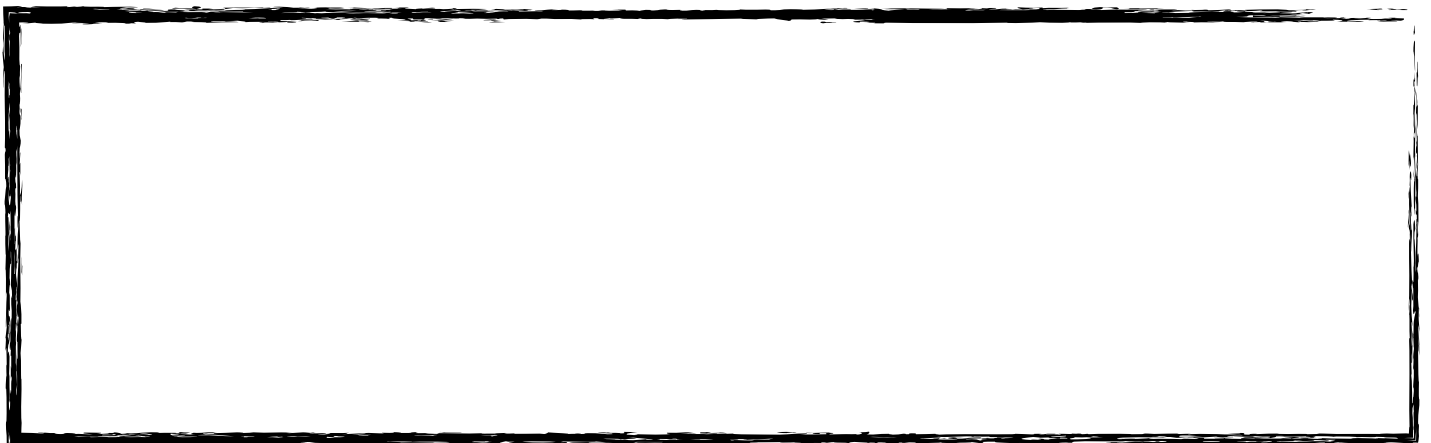
In order to start thinking like a screenwriter, you'll have to start by changing up how you typically approach brainstorming your story idea.

**What are some
of the colors
that describe
your short story
idea?**

Try to think of at least two
or three, then describe how
these colors relate to the
tone of your film.

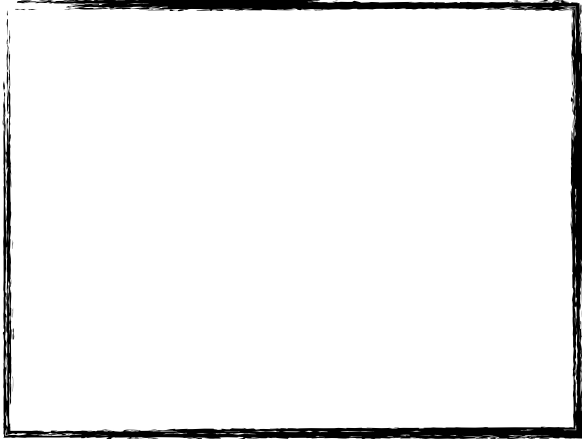


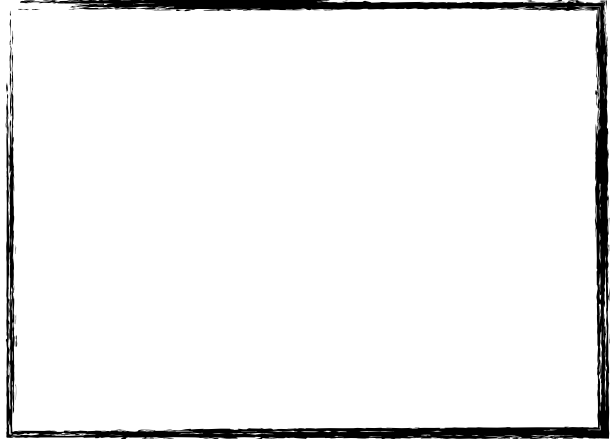
How could you implement these colors in your story?

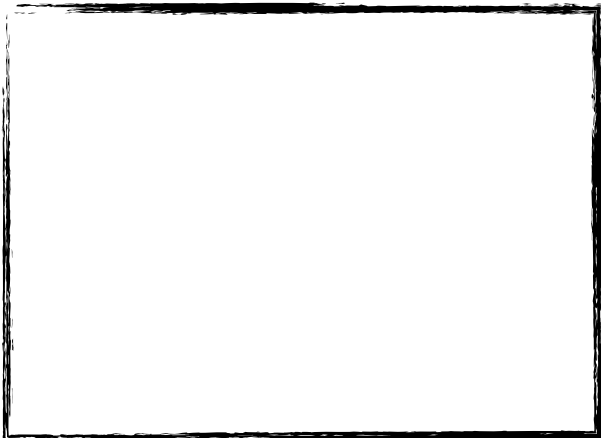


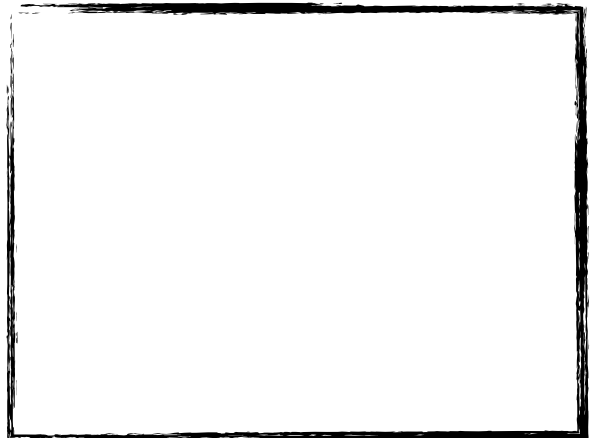
Lesson One: Going From Prose to Screenwriting

In the boxes below, fill in your storyboard for your new film, going in order from first shot to last. Use the images you took today for inspiration, or print this sheet out and begin drawing mini drafts of each image. Don't worry, stick figures are totally acceptable here!



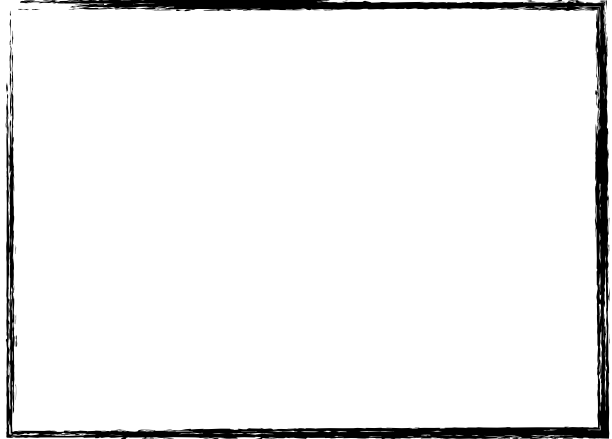
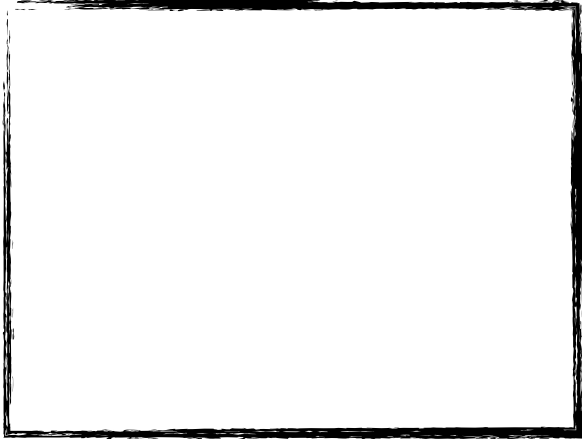


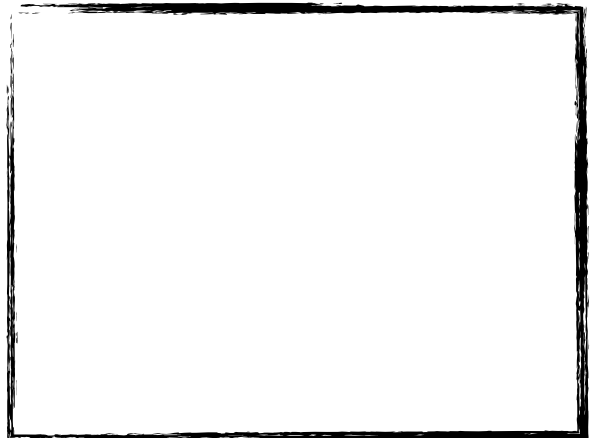
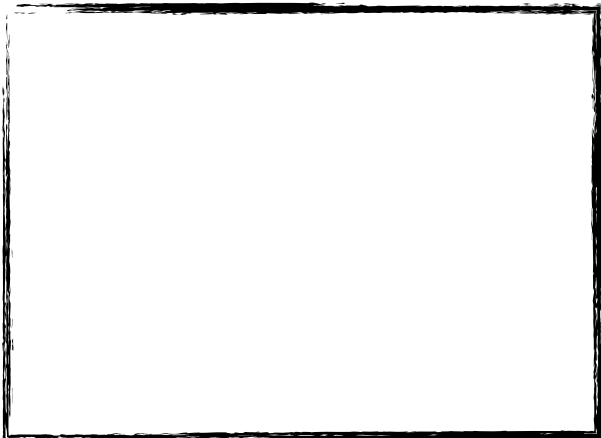




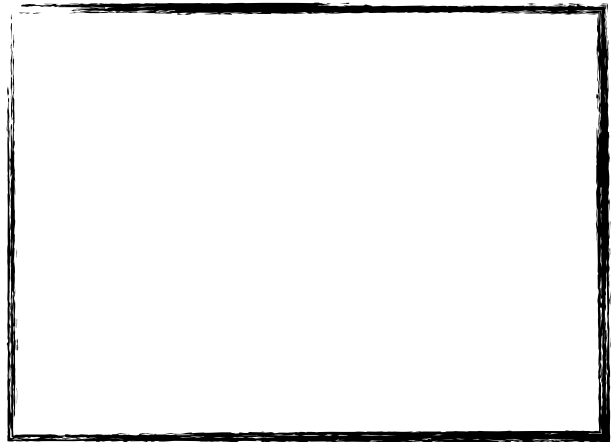
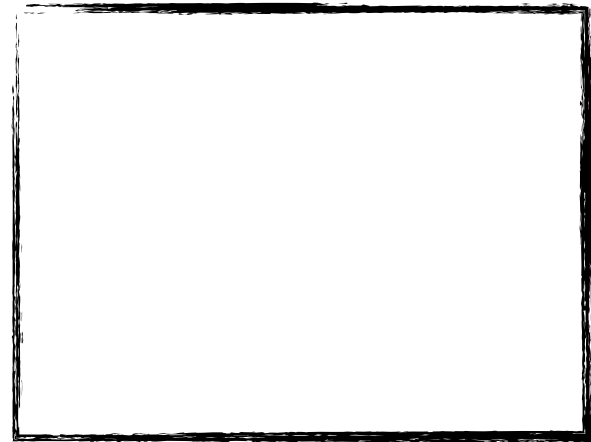
Lesson One: Going From Prose to Screenwriting

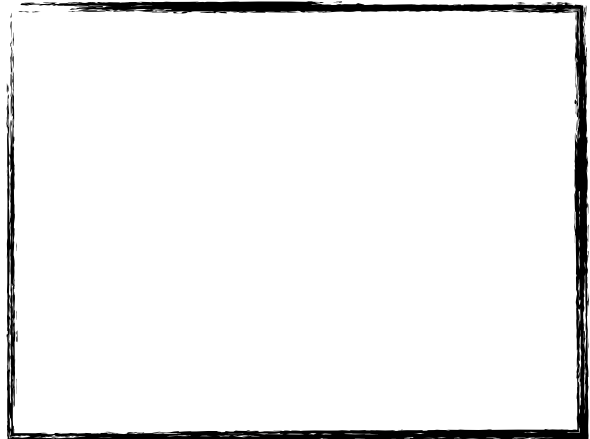
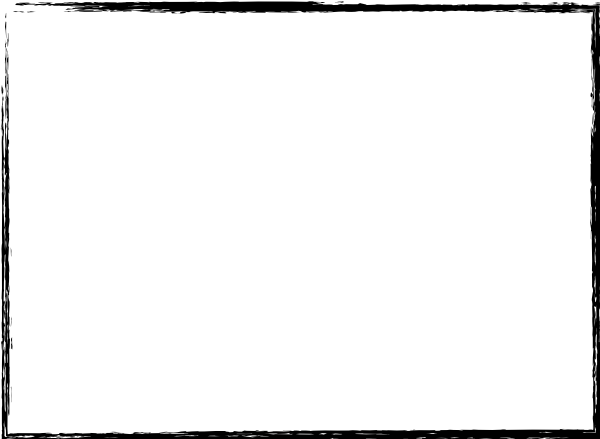
If you are unsure about how to fill these boxes, think about the themes of your story and how you want your characters to represent them!





Lesson One: Going From Prose to Screenwriting







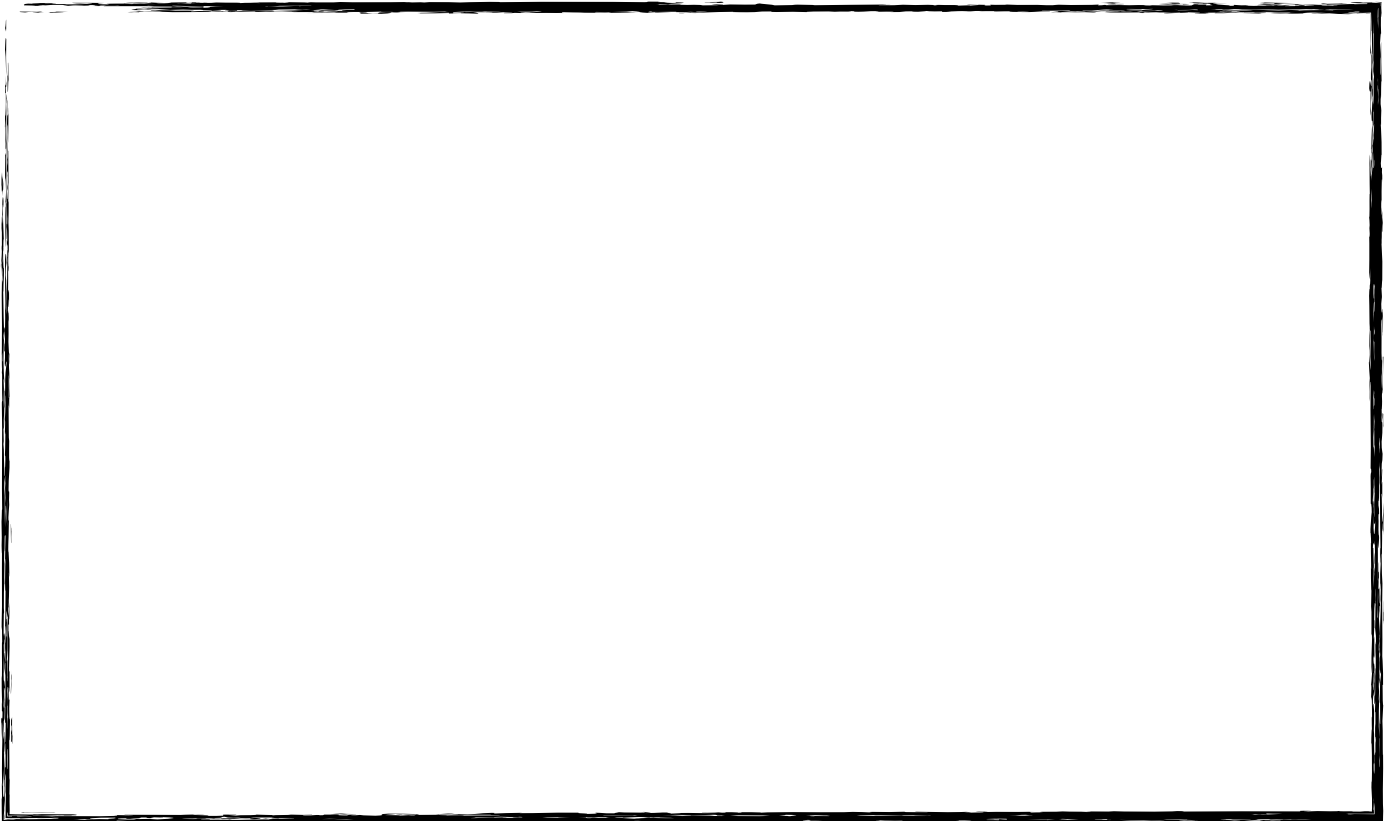
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Think of these last two shots as **bonus shots**.
Try and get artsy and have some fun!

Lesson Two: Short Film Structure



In the space below, draw the “shape” of your short film. Feel free to use the example in the course email, or if you’re feeling crafty, find an object nearby and use it for structural inspiration.



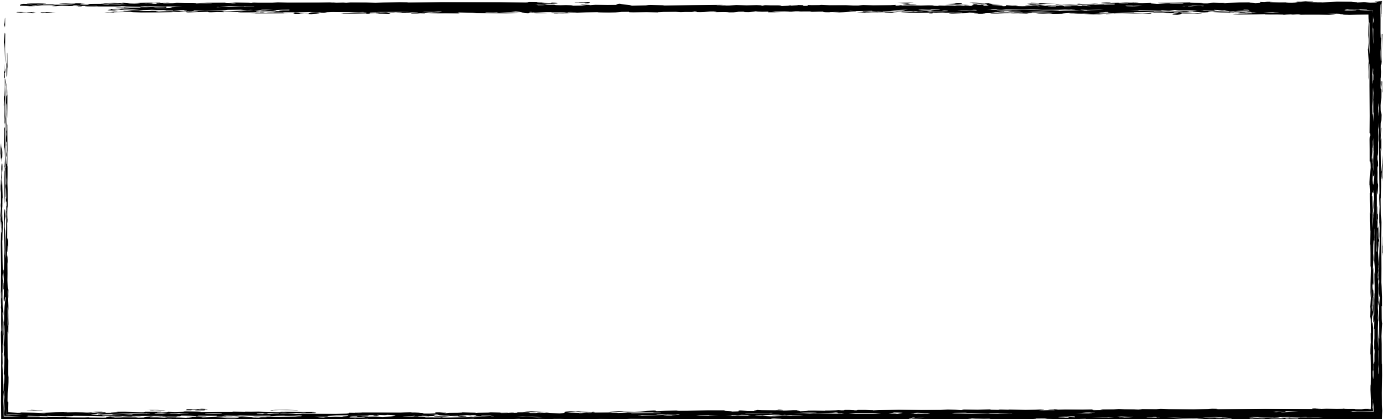
If you need to, copy this story structure out on to a separate sheet of paper and map out where your shots from lesson one will go. Otherwise, you’ll use it as a loose guide throughout lessons three through five.

Lesson Two: Short Film Structure

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Watch a short film (not “The Black Hole”)

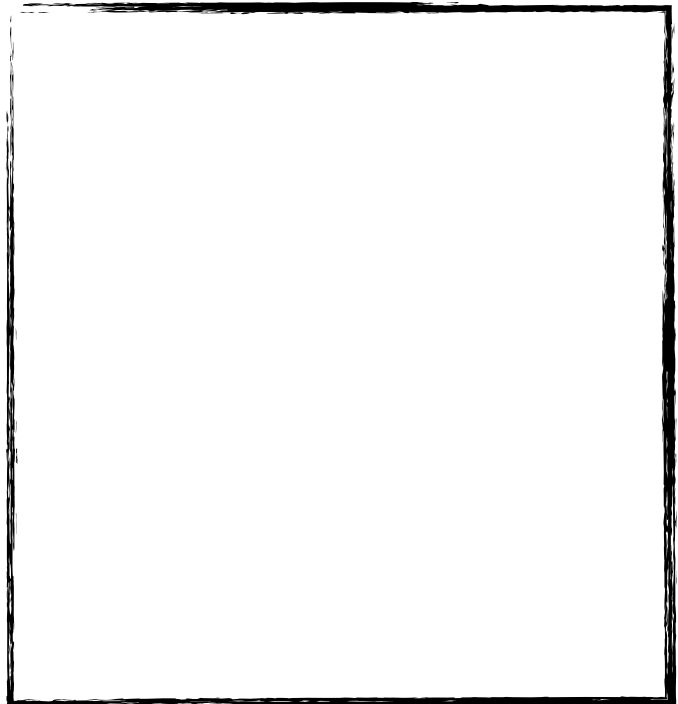
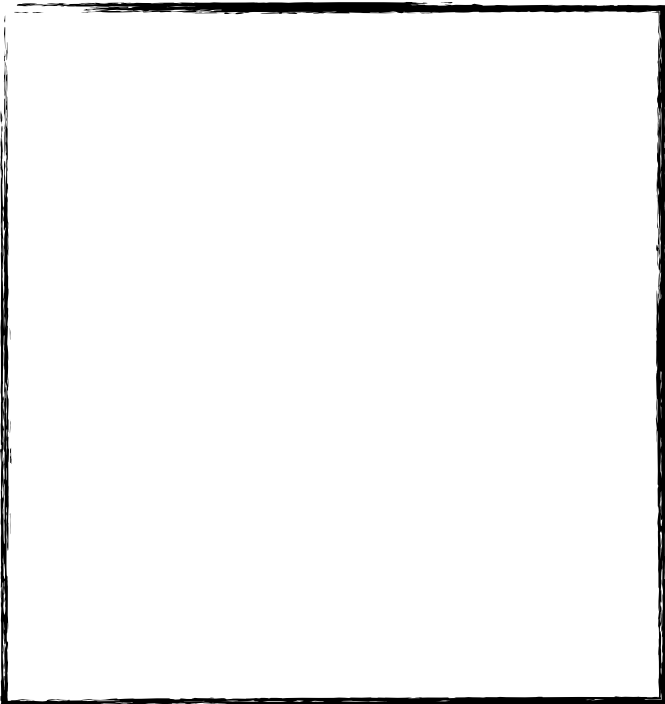
As you watch, take notes on how the story is told via visuals. Focus on color and composition, but also the structure itself.



In the two boxes below, jot down ideas for themes and characters – either types of people or character traits – you wish to explore.

themes

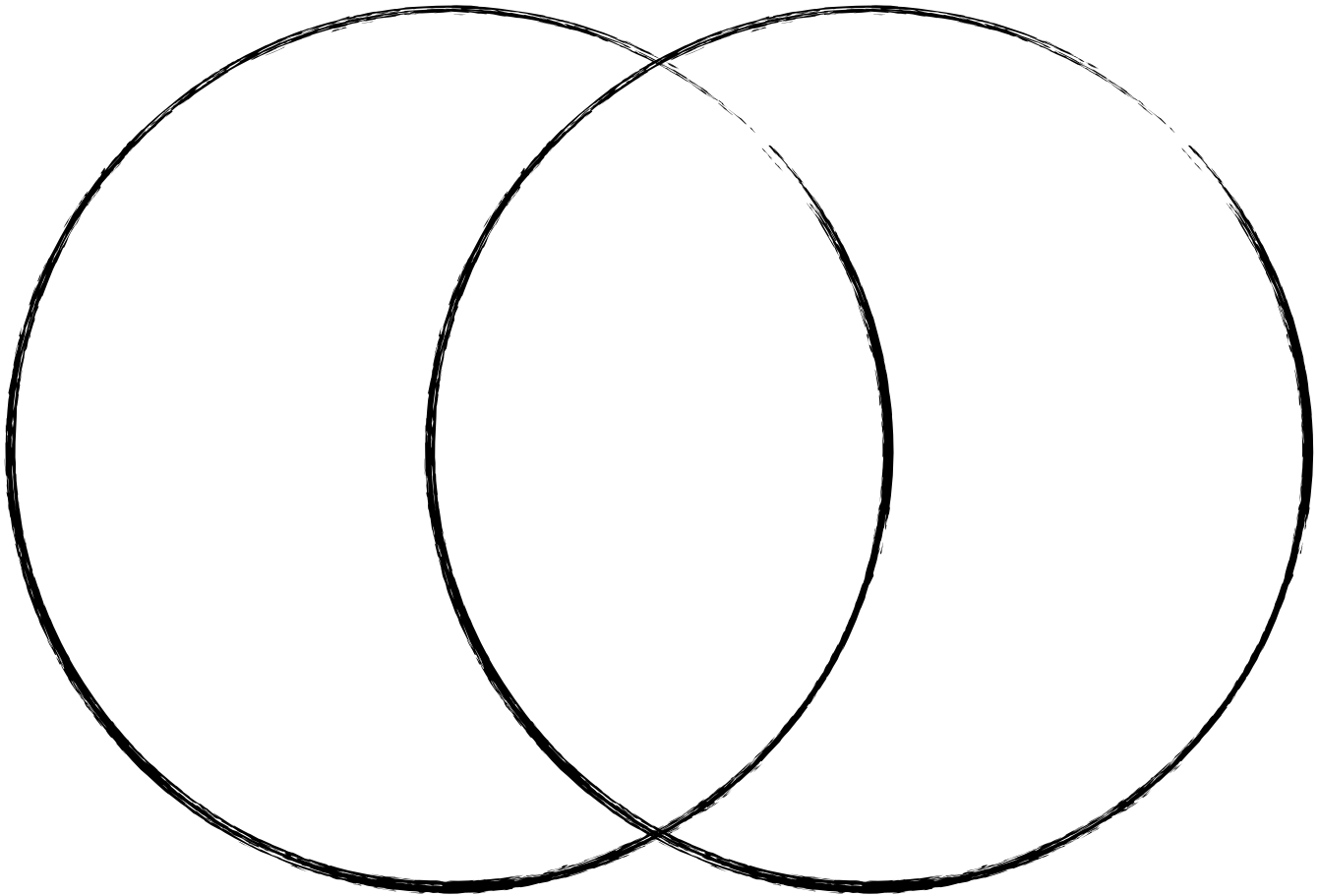
characters



Lesson Two: Short Film Structure

What are some ways the themes and characters can overlap to create conflict? Or, in what ways do these two create a natural conflict?

Example: A theme about heartbreak, a character determined not to love anyone.



Lesson Two: Short Film Structure

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Now write everything about your short film here for easy reference:

theme

character

conflict

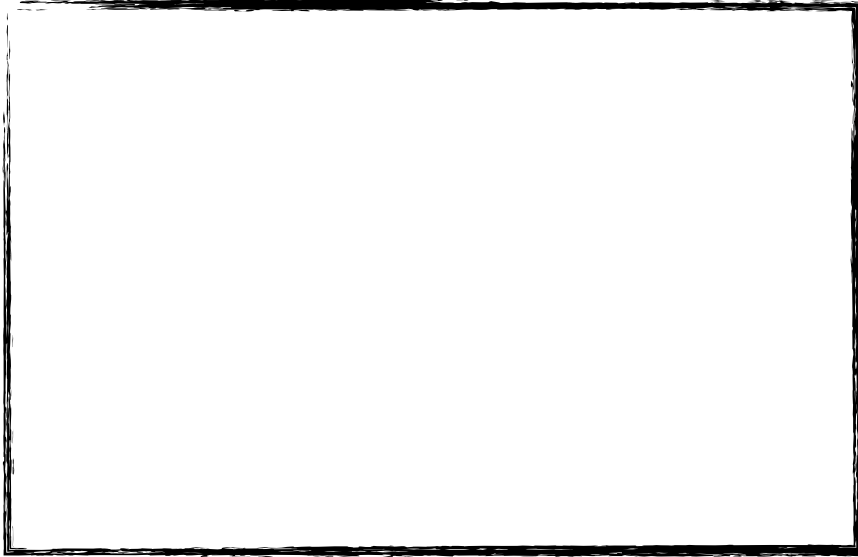
In a brief sentence, describe your film:

Example: A young girl (character) loses her fancy watch (conflict) only to find that money isn't everything (theme).

Lesson Three:

Page One

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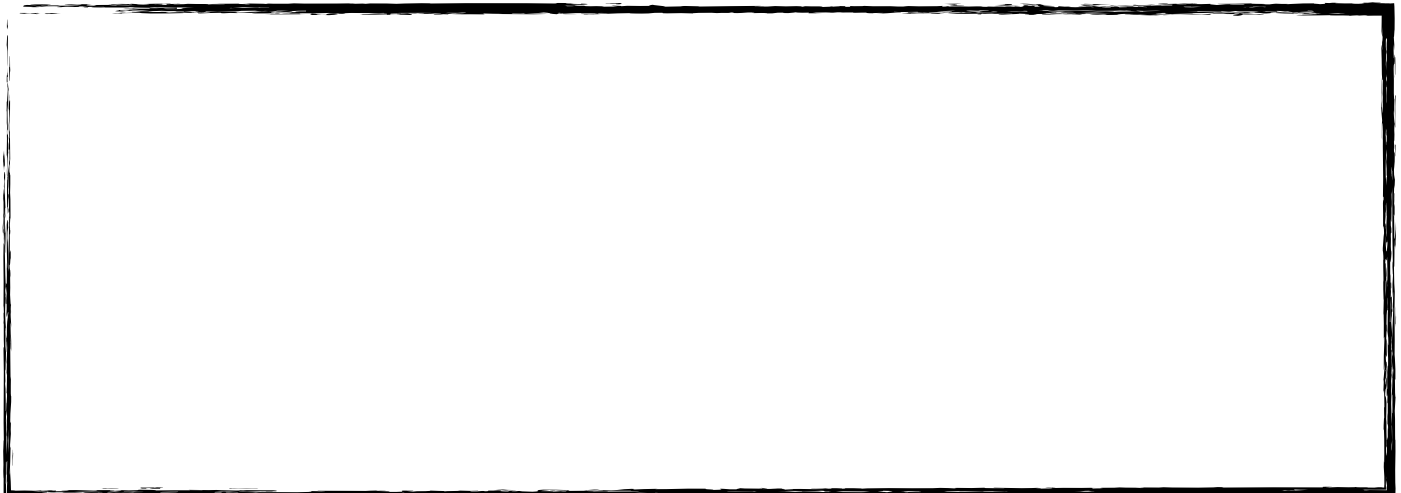


What is the opening shot of your film?

HINT: Think of an image that defines what your story is about (theme!) without “spoiling” the story. If you’re still stuck, look at how the short films you watched yesterday do it!

You can either draw the shot here or just describe it!

What is the setting of your story? Why is that important?

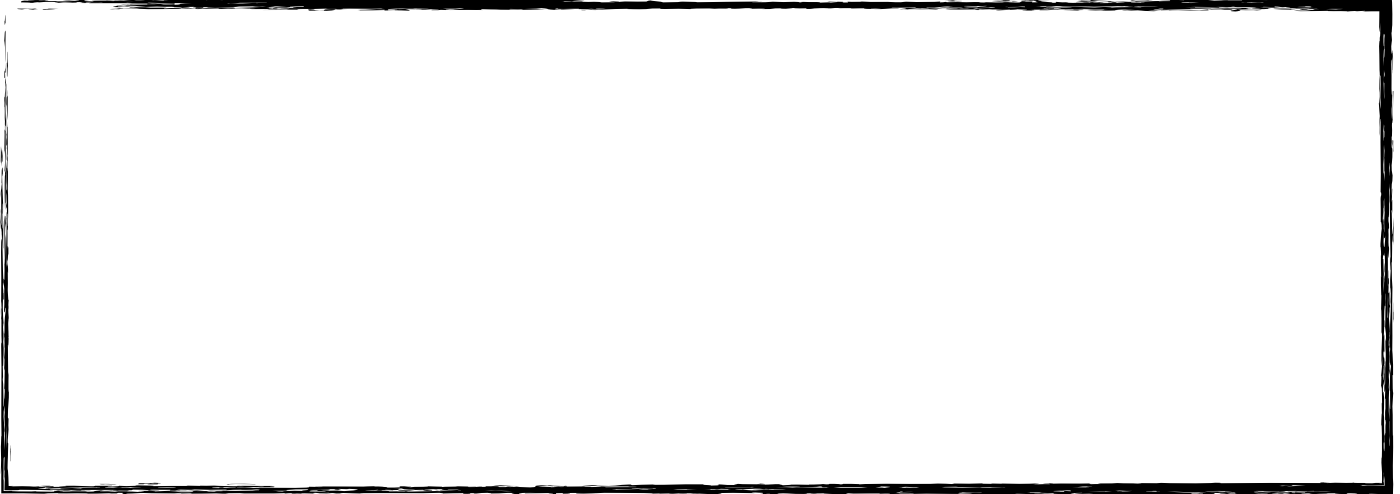


Lesson Three: Page One

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What is your character doing before the film starts?

What will they be doing when the film starts?
The same thing? Or something different?



I plan on introducing a....

- Newness
- Change
- Conflict

...by the end of page one

Things to hit on the first page:

- ✓ Opening shot that represents film
- ✓ Establish world + character
- ✓ Introduce newness, change, or conflict

Lesson Four:

Page Two



**Take some time to imagine four different ways
to fill your short film:**

Try and think about what the scene would look
like + how that would change the story

observation period + symbolism

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick, hand-drawn black border. It is intended for the student to write their ideas for the 'observation period + symbolism' category.

addressal of change, conflict, or newness

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick, hand-drawn black border. It is intended for the student to write their ideas for the 'addressal of change, conflict, or newness' category.

Lesson Four: Page Two



escalation of tension or desire

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick, hand-drawn black border, intended for writing notes related to the 'escalation of tension or desire' prompt.

character thinks, ponders, or discusses

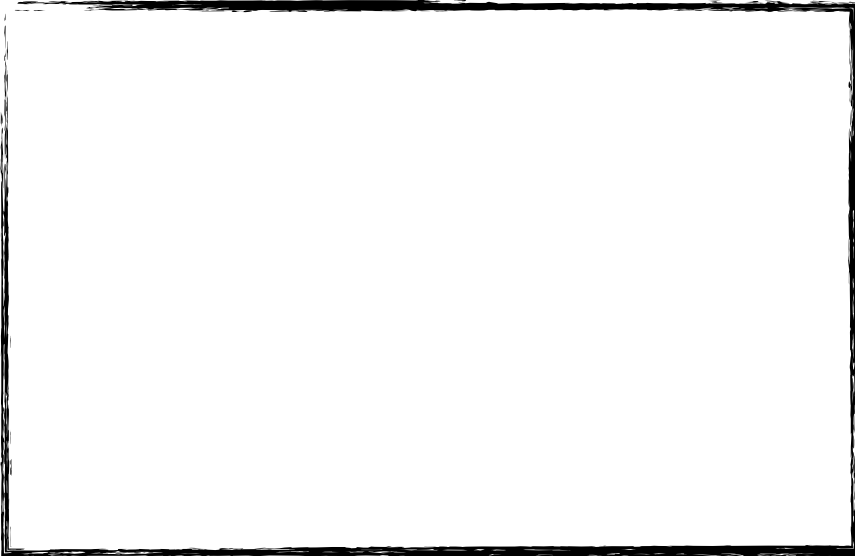
A large, empty rectangular box with a thick, hand-drawn black border, intended for writing notes related to the 'character thinks, ponders, or discusses' prompt.

**Which of these appeals to you
and your story most?**

Lesson Five:

Page Three

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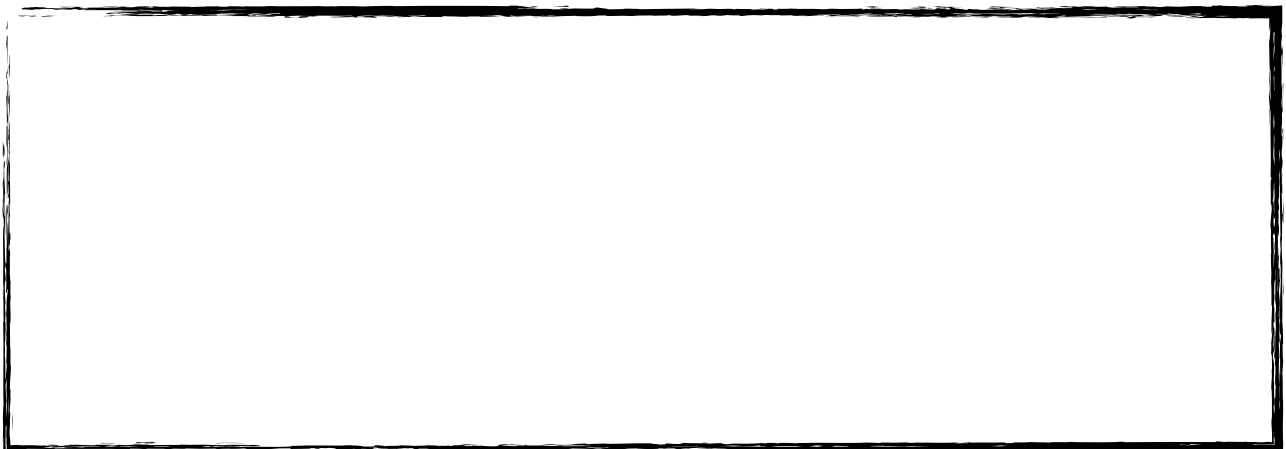


What is the closing shot of your film?

HINT: Think of an image that defines what your story is about (theme!), but feel free to incorporate spoilers now. OR look to your original shot and see how they compare!

You can either draw the shot here or just describe it!

Is your conflict or story still continuing? Write down what all needs to happen before the ending:

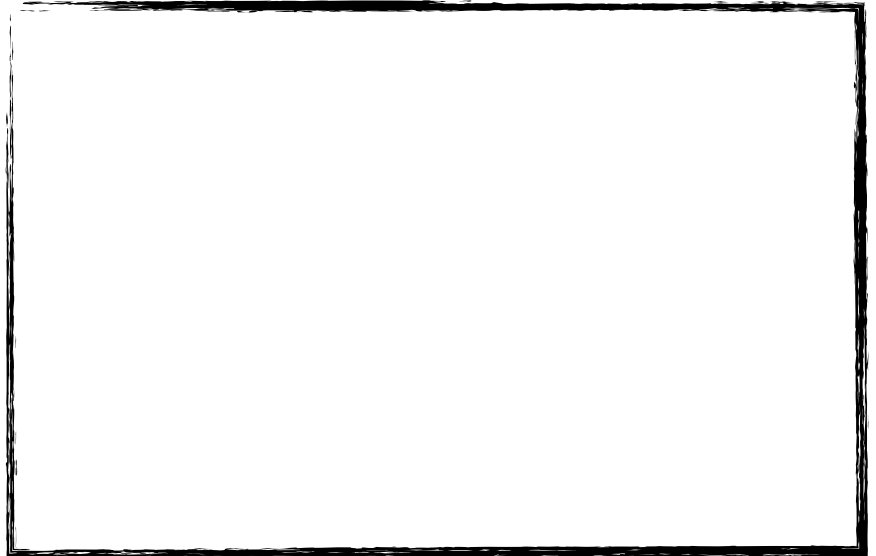


Lesson Five: Page Three

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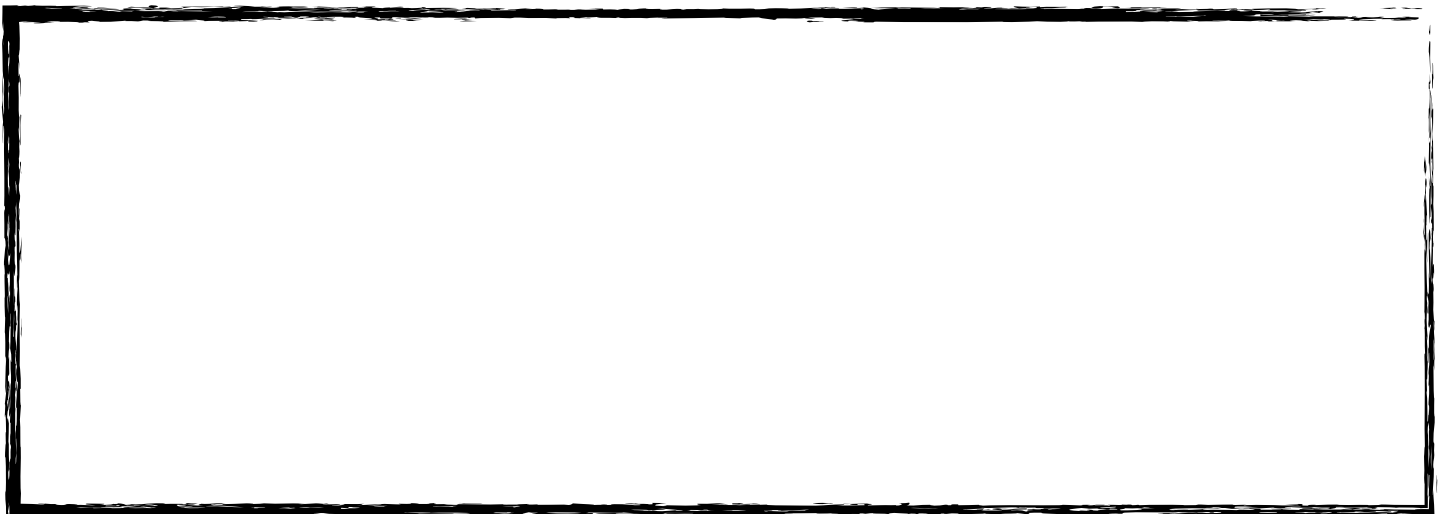
How will you bring this narrative to a close?

Think about how to connect the final shot with the middle of your story for ideas. Or look to your theme + character for more ideas.



STOP! ONLY FILL THIS PART OUT AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR SCRIPT!

Once you're done with your script, think over the entire piece. Are there any parts you think need more work? Ideas for how to change things? Jot them all down below, then return to this story in a week before making changes!



Congrats!

You've
finished your
short film!

Now go **treat**
yourself!