

Activity Type

Writing and Speaking
Activity: table completion, writing a story outline, writing and presenting a dialogue (group work)

Focus

Films

Aim

To create a plot for a film by choosing characters, settings and events from a worksheet and to pitch your idea for the film to the class.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each group of three.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

60 minutes

Introduction

In this engaging movie pitch activity, students create a plot for a film by choosing characters, settings and events from a worksheet. Students then think of a title, prepare a short dialogue for one of the film's scenes and then pitch their idea for the movie to the class.

Procedure

Begin the activity by writing a film title on the board, e.g. 'Star Wars'. Ask the students what type of genre the film is, e.g. science fiction.

Elicit other film genres (e.g. fantasy, adventure, comedy, thriller, horror, action, etc.) by writing other film titles on the board and finding out what films the students have seen for each genre.

Next, divide the students into groups of three. Give each group a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Ask the students what they think a movie pitch is. Explain that a movie pitch is a presentation of an idea for a film to a director, producer or studio executive.

Explain that the students are going to develop an idea for a film and pitch it to the class. The group with the most votes for their movie wins.

Tell the students to choose three characters, settings and events from each column on the worksheet.

The groups then create the details of a film plot and write an outline for their film using their chosen characters, settings and events.

Students must also think of a film title and create a short dialogue for one of the scenes in their movie.

After that, the groups rehearse the dialogue and prepare their movie pitch.

Each group then pitches their movie to the class and acts out their scene, e.g. 'It's a horror film called Spooky. It's about a ghost who...', etc.

Write the name of each movie title on the board as its being pitched for reference when the students vote. When all the groups have presented their movie idea, have a class discussion and vote to see which film the students would choose to be made into a movie.

Characters	Settings	Events
a doctor	on a spaceship	someone gets a super power
a detective	in Antarctica	there is a natural disaster
an alien	in a hotel	there is an expedition
a ghost	on an airplane	two people fall in love
a computer whiz	on a ship	someone runs away from home
a musician	on an island	there is a race
a criminal	in a desert	there is a robbery
a giant	in a haunted house	something very strange happens
an inventor	in the mountains	someone is trying to find treasure
an animal	in the sea	someone goes on a long journey
a young boy	in an inner city	someone is lost
a policeman	in a maze	there is an alien invasion
a robot	in Southeast Asia	war breaks out
a monster	on a train	there is a criminal investigation
a soldier	on a distant planet	someone breaks into a house
two lovers	on a battle field	someone learns something shocking
a businessman	in a jungle	someone is kidnapped
a group of teenagers	in a hospital	someone escapes from prison
a scientist	in a big city	there is a car chase
a driver	at home	somebody gets married
a cook	in a bar	someone causes an accident
a superhero	in a forest	a crime is committed
a politician	in a restaurant	there is a dangerous animal
an explorer	at a party	there is a competition

A. Choose three characters, settings and events for your movie and write them in the table.

Characters	Settings	Events

B. Write a brief outline describing the plot of the movie using the characters, settings and events.

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C. What is the title of your movie?

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D. Create a short dialogue for one of your movie's scenes.

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E. Rehearse the dialogue and prepare your movie pitch, e.g. 'It's a horror film called Spooky. It's about a ghost who...', etc.

F. Now. pitch your movie to the class and act out the scene.