

# LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO WRITING A SCRIPT

## FOCUS OF LESSON

- Introduction to the project
- Key observations of an excerpt from *Doctor Who*
- Analysis of a *Doctor Who* script
- Stage directions – and their use in a script



## LESSON

### Play 'Video Challenge 1' (The Doctor)

Explain that the Doctor is challenging them to write a script for a 3-minute scene set in the TARDIS. Tell the children that during the next few sessions they will be developing the skills they need to write a script.

### Download the script writer's notebook template

Print out one for each child. Tell the class that they will be recording notes throughout the project, which they can put together to make their own script writer's notebooks.

### Download an image of Doctor Who onto your whiteboard

Ask the children what they know about the Doctor (they can work in pairs for this). Discuss briefly, then ask the children to record their information in their script writer's notebooks. Tell them to focus on appearance, manner and personal attributes.

### Play the 'Great script' video

In the video, the production team – including lead writer Steven Moffat – talk about what makes a great *Doctor Who* adventure. Ask the children to make notes on what they have just heard. Do they agree with the production team about what makes a good episode?

### Watch the 'Victory of the Daleks' video

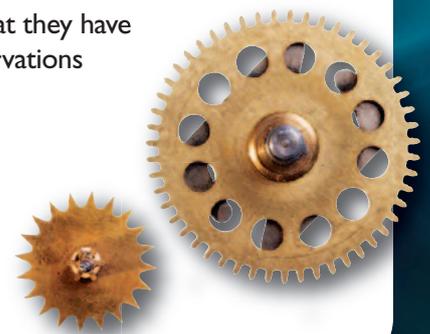
Tell the class they are going to watch an excerpt from an episode of *Doctor Who*.

### Close analysis activity

Before the children watch the clip, split the class into groups and ask each group to focus on a different element. Tell them that they will be feeding back at the end of the clip. The first group should concentrate on the pace and mood of the excerpt, the second group on the characters, the third group on the setting and the fourth group on the plot. Check that each group understands the element they are focusing on. Give each group a large sheet of paper with the appropriate term (eg 'plot') written in the centre. Children should note down on the paper what they observe during the clip. Each group should feed back what they have agreed to the rest of the class. Children should then record the key observations made by each group in their script writer's notebooks.



**SCRIPT TO SCREEN**



# LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION TO WRITING A SCRIPT

## Download the script for the 'Victory of the Daleks' excerpt

Discuss the features of the script. Does it look the way they expected? What surprises them? What extra information has the writer provided to help the director bring the script to life?

## Download the 'Victory of the Daleks' story board

How does this compare with the script? How does this compare with what they have seen on screen? If there is time, download the story board templates for the children to fill in for the scenes they have watched.

## Play the 'Importance of stage directions' video

Ask the children to make notes on the comments by the production team about the importance of stage directions. Discuss what they have observed.

## Play the 'Read through' video

Get the class to watch a short video in which Steven Moffat (the lead writer of Doctor Who) reads the stage directions for the opening scene of the episode 'The Eleventh Hour'.

Split the class into groups and get each group to study the script that accompanies the excerpt. Get the children to take turns in reading the parts, and to note and discuss the stage directions. Then get the children to act out the scene – this time performing the stage directions.

Finally, have a class discussion about how the stage directions have an impact on the way the scene is acted out and on the viewer's understanding of the scene.



## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understanding of the appropriate elements (characters, pace and mood, setting, plot) that they will need to use in order to complete a script
- Understanding the lay-out and function of a script
- Understanding of the purpose of stage directions
- Clarity about the challenge ahead of them – to write a 3-minute scene, featuring the Eleventh Doctor, which is set in the TARDIS



DOCTOR WHO  
CONFIDENTIAL

SCRIPT TO SCREEN