# Writing a Harry Potter Script

**Grades: 6 - 8**

**Key Focus:** Language Arts, Literature

| **OVERVIEW** | Students will read *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. As they read the book, they will create a WordPress blog reflecting on what they have read. After finishing the book, students will work to summarize the main events in one chapter. Then students will write a script based on this chapter. |
| **OBJECTIVES** | Following this activity, students will be able to:  
  - Write a script based on a portion of a book  
  - Summarize the main points of a story  
  - Use WordPress to reflect and share their thoughts with others  
  ***make sure each student has a WordPress account prior to this activity*** |
| **STANDARDS** | 6.1, 7.1, 8.1 READING: Word Recognition, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development  
6.3, 7.3, 8.3 READING: Comprehension and Analysis of Literacy Text  
6.5, 7.5, 8.5 WRITING: Applications (Different Types of Writing and Their Characteristics) |
| **MATERIALS** | ✓ *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*  
✓ Copies of the Script Writing handout (attached)  
✓ Computer lab  
✓ WordPress.com accounts |
| **PROCEDURES** | 1. Students will read *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*.  
2. As they read, students will write a blog reflecting on certain aspects of the book. These will include: how the story is making them feel, how they think the characters feel, what they think will happen next/ at the conclusion, in-depth character analysis of one or more characters, and additional prompts such as favorite scene, character etc. Students will be required to give specific reasons for views.  
3. After, students have completed the book,
distribute the Script Writing handout.
4. Go over the Script Writing handout together.
5. Ask students to select and re-read their favorite chapter from one of the Harry Potter books.
6. After re-reading, students will use the Script Writing Handout to summarize the chapter.
7. Next, students will write scripts based on a scene from the chapter they have chosen.
8. Pair students up to read each other’s work.
9. Have students edit their work.
10. Students will act the scenes out in front of the class.
11. Students will post their script on WordPress

Note: The script example in the Script Writing handout is taken from Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. This activity uses Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince.

**EVALUATION**

- Each student will be evaluated on the value of their blogging.
  - Evaluation and feedback will be given periodically and at the end of this project.
  - Evaluation will be based on the clarity of the writing as well as the students ability to support his or her conclusions with specific reasons or examples.
- Each student will be evaluated on the final draft of his or her script.
- Students will also be evaluated on their ability to summarize.

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**Script Writing Handout**

- Title of the book:
- Chapter and Page Number:
- Summarize a chapter from *Harry Potter* by answering the following questions:
  - Which characters are in this chapter? (Please name them all):
    1. 
    2. 
    3. 
    4. 
    5. 
- What are the major events that occur in this chapter?
  1. 
  2. 
  3. 
  4. 
  5.
• Writing the script for a chapter:

• Now use the main events from the chapter and turn them into scenes that you can act out in front of the class. Read the following example of a conversation from the book turned into a script. Notice the following:
  o The name of the character is on the far left, followed by a colon.
  o The lines the character says are to the right.
  o Physical actions to be carried out by the character are written between parentheses and in italics. This means the words should not be said aloud.
  o Scenery is described aloud by the characters so the audience can imagine where they are.

_Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire_
Chapter Seven, page 82
Characters: Hermione, Ron, and Harry

Ron: Can you believe how many people are here for the Quidditch World Cup?
Hermione: Look at all of those tents!
Harry: Everything is green! There are shamrocks everywhere. I suppose there's no need to guess who they're hoping will win the world cup!
Hermione: (sniffing haughtily through her nose) Well, of course not! They're obviously rooting for the Irish!

• Now try it yourself!

Information adopted from
http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=pictures+of+harry+potter+and+the+half+blood+prince+book+cover&view=detail&id=4345400F57B17773673CDBB2599192B64FE0B897&first=61&FORM=IDFRIR
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