

STORYSEED ACTIVITY

In this activity, you'll use one of the seeds below to create a storyboard and a short film.

Instructions:

Choose a storyseed from the list below. Take a few minutes to think about the characters you've just been introduced to and how they might react to the emotional moment they have been placed in.

In 30 minutes create a storyboard using your seed and developing your own details and transformation. Draw out 5 frames enacting the emotional moment described. You can use Post-Its, 3x5 index cards, or draw directly on the template provided on the next page. Jot down a few notes or words of dialogue for each frame.

Using your storyboard, a handheld video camera, and maybe a friend or two, create a short film (no more than three minutes). Take only 60 minutes to shoot your film. No post production editing is necessary.

ONE

Emotional Moment:

Oscar walks downstairs to get his mail. A guy carrying a moving box passes him in the hallway and turns, "Hey, didn't you go to New Haven Prep? I kinda recognize you..."

Empathy:

Oscar knows exactly who this guy is: Carl Festing. May 14, 1989, Carl and his buddies stole Oscar's car on a joy ride to the next county. That day happened to be the Track & Field Division Semi-Finals where Oscar was set to run. He knew that college scouts were looking for new recruits. Oscar never made it to the competition and did not end up with a scholarship. Even in his hand today was a bill for the school loans he hadn't yet paid.

TWO

Emotional Moment:

Mikal is desperately trying to fix a flat on his bike when the train doors open at his stop. He drags his bike off the train smearing chain grease on his pants. As he steps off the train, he sees his ex-wife, Helena walking to the parking lot where his pickup truck sits parked, washed. She looks good, wearing a new wardrobe and is walking briskly to the car.

Empathy:

Mikal is a diligent and committed guy. When asked, he responds he is single mostly because he is too busy with trying to keep his head above water. He feels that at every turn his accomplishments don't fit the demands. In reality, he's divorced for the same reason.

As a carpenter, Mikal lately had to make do with fewer available jobs and less pay. He hasn't been able to pay his alimony, recently he had to give his wife his 2009 Toyota Tundra. The financial pain had lately turned literal as an upper molar in his mouth--way in the back--had been aching for months and in the past two days it had come alive with sharpened pain. Because business is slow, he's let his dental insurance lax. Only today has the pain become all encompassing.

THREE

Emotional Moment:

Maury's having a drink with new friends when her phone rings. It's her brother: "I need you to come back..."

Empathy:

Maury's organization and level-headedness kept her in school along with her younger brother as her parents divorced and essentially drifted away. Confident, but still shaken from that, Maury lives with ulcers that feed on her uncertainty about what might fall apart next. Recently, Maury received an invitation from a friend of hers to take a position in Singapore. Maury eventually decided to take the position, conflicted about separating from her past, but looking to escape toward a future. Part of that past included her brother, who, until she boarded the plane for Singapore, she had seen every day for the past 34 years.

STORY SEED

Visuals

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↑ ONE

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↑ TWO

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↑ THREE

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↑ FOUR

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↑ FIVE

NOTES