

Alate

A Screenplay Writing Example

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FADE IN:

EXT. GRAVEYARD

An overcast day set in late autumn. Grass is brown and the trees are almost completely bare -- dreary sad vibes.

A funeral is ending at a graveyard. People can be seen in dark clothing. We see Felicity, Sabrina, Seth, and Brice being led by their parents out of the graveyard to their cars. Seth angrily tugs at his tie. Sabrina already has dirt on her dress.

The camera angle is low, and level with the children's heads so no adult face can be seen.

Funeral attendees leave the graveyard and graveyard workers can be seen lowering casket in BG. The cars drive towards the destination of the repast.

INT. CAR

Sabrina is coloring on top of a sheet of folded program with a blue crayon. The text on it cannot be made out. Felicity is looking out the window at the passing trees. Her hair hangs loosely with a bow on top of her head. She nervously chews on her thumb as the cars pull into a driveway.

EXT GRANDMA'S HOUSE.

The cars pull up to a large house in the country. A small patch of trees lines the backyard. The people get out of their cars and go inside.

INT. GRANDMA'S HOUSE

The adults begin to wade in, we can only see them from the legs down. The camera angle remains low. Lots of overlapping voices can be heard as the adults greet each other and begin to gather. Sabrina and Felicity enter the house behind their parents and look around nervously. Sabrina is holding the piece of paper she was coloring on. Suddenly Adult 1 fills the camera view, from a low angle making his feature's distorted and his height and the size of his hands is greatly exaggerated to appear massive. Adult 1 towers over Sabrina and Felicity.

ADULT 1

(loudly)

My, my! Look how big you two have gotten! Why I remember when you both were just tiny babies.

Adult 1 reaches down and pinches Sabrina's cheek and pats Felicity a bit too hard.

ADULT 1 (CONT'D)

(Tone changes to one who is talking to a baby or a small puppy)

But your cheeks are still so chubby and cute!

A voice O.S. draws the attention of ADULT 1 who turns away. The camera focuses back onto Felicity and Sabrina. Sabrina rubs her cheek aggressively to shake off the sting of the pinch, she looks a bit overwhelmed by all the adults and their noise. Felicity grabs her hand to keep her from crying and desperately looks for an escape route before Adult 1 turns back to them. She spots a table across the room with a long tablecloth that rests on the ground. She hurriedly drags Sabrina behind her and the two slip between the adults and quietly sneak under the table. Felicity double checks they were not seen and allows the tablecloth to drop back into place. They are hidden from sight.

INT. KITCHEN

A kitchen countertop is brimming with food. A plate of cookies rests near the edge. Uncle Robbie sits at a bar stool near it silently drinking from a cup. He watches the commotion and the conversations happening around him. His brows furrow as his attention is captured by a tiny hand, trying to be sneaky, blindly reaching up and trying to find the plate of cookies. Brice is hiding on the other side of the countertop. It is his hand. Brice's hand fumbles around trying to find the plate. Unsuccessful, he peeks above the counter and notices Uncle Robbie watching him.

BRICE

(Gasps softly as his hand reaches for the plate)

Uncle Robbie and Brice make eye contact for a moment before Uncle Robbie pushes the plate closer to Brice.

UNCLE ROBBIE

(Whispering)

Better not let your mommy see you.

Brice nods solemnly and snatches an armful of cookies before dipping back down under the cabinet. Camera pans as he creeps low and sneaks between the adults. He makes his way towards the same table Felicity and Sabrina had just hidden under. He slips under it. Felicity and Sabrina look up as he enters. He dumps the cookies onto the floor between them and shoves one into his mouth.

INT. UNDER THE TABLE

FELICITY

Oh, good you found us. Where is your brother, Brice?

BRICE

(Talking around a
mouthful of cookie)

Huh uh.

Sabrina grabs a cookie and begins to eat as she watches FELICITY roll her eyes at BRICE's unhelpful information. She lifts the tablecloth and scans the room. She spots Seth across it trying to hide behind a large plant. He has old lady lipstick prints on his forehead and cheek. Felicity catches his attention. He quickly darts across the room and slides under the table.

SETH

(accusingly)

I've been looking for all of you. Great Aunt Gertie found me when I was alone.

Seth aggressively rubs the lipstick off his face.

FELICITY

Sorry, we didn't know where you were.

Sabrina hands Seth a cookie as an apology and eats another one herself.

FELICITY

Does anyone know where Ian is? We need to find him.

Sabrina, Brice, and Seth all look at each other and shake their heads.

BRICE

Maybe Aunt Shelly and Uncle Reed made him take a nap?

SETH

(Shaking his head)

I was just in Grandma and Grandpa's room looking for you. He isn't there.

BRICE

Is he with Aunt Shelly? She sometimes won't let him play with me because she says he needs to rest.

SABRINA

(She tries to hold her paper for the others to see)

He isn't in here--

FELICITY

(She cuts Sabrina off, excitedly. She is having an epiphany)

That's it, Sabrina! I promised him I would be seeker next time we played play hide n' seek! I bet he is hiding outside!

SETH

(Getting excited)

Ian loves playing hide n' seek! I bet he was trying to get away from the grownups too.

BRICE

Yeah! Let's go find him!

(Brice begins to get excited because the other two are)

FELICITY

We need to sneak outside without the grownups seeing.

Felicity and the other children get on their stomachs and look out from under their table.

THE WORLD SHIFTS FROM REALITY INTO IMAGINED.

EXT. DINO FIELD

Suddenly the room around them shifts and changes as their imaginations take control of the situation. They are no longer hunkering under a table, but hidden under a thick bush. Their

funeral clothes are replaced with adventure attire. The adults are now dinosaurs stalking across a large open field.

FELICITY

There!

(She points towards the door seen on the opposite end of the field that once was the living room
We have to make it to the time machine to get out of here safely!

The door transforms into a shiny spinning porta-like device before their eyes. Suddenly a large T-Rex foot crashes down in front of them as walks past their table. The children all gasp and allow the tablecloth to fall back into place.

THE WORLD SHIFTS FROM IMAGINED INTO REALITY.

INT. UNDER THE TABLE

As the tablecloth falls into place the world snaps back into reality and we see them under the table. Brice and Sabrina clasp each other's hands and giggle at the close call.

SETH

Alright, we are going to have to be smart and fast about this.

(Seth's clothes shift and he is once again in an adventure's outfit. He gives off Indiana Jones vibes)

Follow my lead.

EXT. DINO FIELD

THE WORLD SHIFTS FROM REALITY INTO IMAGINED.

Seth crawls out from under the table and once again he is surrounded by dinosaurs. Through a series of army crawling and rolls he manages to make it to the time machine/door without getting noticed. He waves the other children over. They carefully scurry across the ground to it. They all sneakily slip through the time machine.

INT. KITCHEN

THE WORLD SHIFTS FROM IMAGINED INTO REALITY.

The room shifts back into the normal reality as the time machine's portal spirals to a close and turns back into the

closing door. The children can be seen running towards the woods through the window. Uncle Robbie is still sitting at the cabinet. He is watching them. He realizes that none of the other adults noticed them going outside. He grabs a cookie for himself before rising from his chair and walking off camera in the direction of the door.