

‘Stories on Stage’ Drama Competition 2020/21
Overview of Short Story Options

Option 1

Title: ‘Crossroads’

Shorts 2010-2014: Student-created Short Stories for Reading and Appreciation

NET Section, CDI, EDB (2015).

Characters

1. Chris Wong
2. His parents
3. John – Chris' best friend
4. A doctor
5. Mr Lee – Chris' football coach
6. Football game commentator

Summary

Chris Wong has loved playing football ever since he kicked his first goal in primary 2. He trains regularly and has become the captain of his team. He wants to become a professional football player. His best friend, John, is not sure that this is a realistic goal for Chris and puts some doubts in his mind. While playing in the Asian Youth Football Championship Final, Chris thinks about what John has said and loses concentration. He trips on the ball and injures his leg. While in hospital recovering, he is visited by John who urges him to think about giving up football. Chris is also visited by his coach who urges him to stay positive and continue playing. Chris has a decision to make.

Points to consider

- This story, in its written form, is quite short. Consider how it can be developed to fill 5 to 8 minutes of an audio drama.
- Chris’ love of football from an early age must be conveyed to the audience. Consider a conversation in which his passion is discussed. With whom will this be? His parents? Coach Lee? John?
- The scene in which Chris injures his leg is written to include Chris’ thoughts. Consider how these can be communicated to the audience at the same time as the commentator describes the action.
- Consider the values inherent in this story: optimism, perseverance, hope (Chris hopes to fulfil his passion)

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Option 2

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| Title/Author: ‘Tighty-Whities or Boxers’ by AVI | | |
| <p>Characters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ryan Bennett 2. Halley Bennett, Ryan’s mother 3. Ian Kipling, Ryan’s mother’s intended husband 4. Randy, Ian Kipling’s nephew 5. Chuck Schusterman, Ian Kipling’s old college friend 6. Mrs Gillman, Ryan’s English teacher 7. Wedding celebrant/Judge | <p>Summary</p> <p>Ryan's mom once told him that being a mom was a real job. So, when three years after his dad's death, she announces that she is thinking of remarrying, Ryan requests that the man she intends to marry must submit an application for the position of Dad, complete with two letters of reference, one from a kid and one from an adult, and an interview.</p> | <p>Points to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The references written by the adult friend and child are central to the story. Consider how their letters of recommendation can be expressed in an audio drama e.g. perhaps they could be the thoughts of the writers as they write or they could become interviews or phone calls. • Further dialogues could be developed through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ian Kipling asking his college friend and nephew to be his referees. Mrs Gillman explaining the features of letters of recommendation Some conversations could be reported to other characters, e.g. Ian Kipling telling Ryan’s mother about his interview • Consider the values inherent in this story: optimism, proactivity, hope (Ryan hopes that he will have a worthy stepfather) |

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Option 3

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| <p>Title/Author: ‘The Model Millionaire’ by Oscar Wilde. Available online at East of the Web: http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/ModMil.shtml</p> | | |
| <p>Characters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hughie Erskine – very good looking but without assets 2. Laura Merton – Hughie's love interest 3. Laura’s father – forbids the marriage unless Hughie has assets 4. Alan Trevor – a painter and Hughie's great friend 5. Baron Hausberg – one of the richest men in Europe who asked to be painted as a beggar | <p>Summary</p> <p>Hughie Erskine is an exceptionally good looking and perfectly affable young man, but he has no means of support other than a stipend from an old aunt. He wants to marry Laura Merton, but her father forbids the marriage unless Hughie has 10,000 English pounds. Hughie goes to visit his great friend Alan Trevor who is painting an old beggar. Hughie feels sorry for the beggar and when Alan is out of the room, he gives the beggar some money, even though he has so little himself.</p> <p>Later he meets Alan at a club. Alan tells him that the beggar is not actually a beggar, but Baron Hausberg, an extraordinarily rich man who asked Alan all about Hughie.</p> <p>The next morning Hughie receives a note from the Baron and 10,000 pounds so that he can marry Laura. The Baron makes a speech at the wedding.</p> | <p>Points to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although this story is set in the 1800s in London, it could be updated to modern times and Hong Kong. • Consider how Hughie's problem can be communicated to the audience through dialogue, e.g. Hughie asking for Laura’s hand in marriage from her father and being rejected or Hughie complaining to Alan about the situation. • The conversation between Alan and the Baron about Hughie’s situation is an integral part of the story. Consider how it can be included. • The story could be expanded to include Hughie telling Laura about the money and the Baron’s speech at the wedding. • Consider the values inherent in this story: generosity, optimism, hope (Hughie does not give up on his desire to marry Laura) |

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Option 4

Title/Author: ‘The Gift of the Magi’ by O. Henry.

Available online at East of the Web: <http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/GifMag.shtml>

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| <p>Characters</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jim 2. Della 3. Hairdresser 4. Sales assistant in watch chain shop 5. Sales assistant in hair comb shop | <p>Summary</p> <p>Della and Jim are a young married couple with no money. It is Christmas Eve and neither of them has a present to give to the other. Della has beautiful hair and has yearned for some time to own some beautiful, expensive, tortoise-shell, hair combs that have been in the window of a shop. Jim has a family heirloom gold fob watch in need of a chain. Della sells her hair to a hairdresser who cuts it and buys it for \$20. Della then uses the money to buy a watch chain for Jim’s watch. When Jim comes home, he is devastated to see Della’s short hair as he has sold his watch to buy the hair combs that Della so badly wanted.</p> | <p>Points to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider how the beauty of Della’s hair and her desire for the combs can be established early, e.g. through dialogue. • Consider how the family heirloom-status of the watch, the pride Jim has in owning it, and the lack of a watch chain, can be established early, e.g. through dialogue. • The writer asks the reader to “take a look at the home,” but only offers minimal description of what is inside (“the shabby little couch”). Consider how their poverty can be established, e.g. through dialogue. • Consider how Della’s love for Jim can be reinforced through the conversation with the hairdresser. • Consider including Jim’s conversation with the sales assistant when he buys the combs and Della’s conversation with the sales assistant when she buys the watch chain. • Consider how to connect the story of the Magi (Three Wise Men) and their gifts to the actions of Della and Jim to emphasise the message in the text that the unconditional love that Della and Jim have for each other is a wiser gift than any material possessions. • Consider the values inherent in this story: love, generosity, selflessness, sacrifice |
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Option 5

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| Title/Author: ‘Apologies All Around’ by Jeff Soesbe. Available online at Flash Fiction Online: http://www.flashfictiononline.com/pdf/f20080202-apologies-all-around-jeff-soesbe.pdf | | |
| Characters <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Winston Sinclair2. Elizabeth Sinclair3. Rachel Sinclair4. Karl Gustavsson5. Robot6. Cherisse Deveraux | Summary <p>An apology robot arrives at Winston Sinclair’s house to issue an apology from Karl Gustavsson to Winston for bad-mouthing him and preventing him from getting a job many years ago. The robot cannot leave until Winston issues an apology, of the same value as the one he received, to someone else. He apologises to an old girlfriend for leaving her and breaking her heart. He then realises that he has another apology to give but the robot will not accept another apology. Winston decides to build his own robot.</p> | Points to consider <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This story, in its written form, is quite short. Consider how it can be developed to fill 5 to 8 minutes of an audio drama.• Winston, regardless of his missed opportunity, has had a happy life with his wife and family. Consider how this can be established.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Perhaps Rachel could ask her parents about when and how they met and there could be a conversation reminiscing about happy times together before the robot arrives.○ Perhaps Winston’s earlier relationship with Cherisse could be mentioned.• Karl’s apology affects Winston and triggers memories of how much he wanted the job and why. Consider how to inform the audience of the disappointment and confusion he had felt when he hadn't got the job.• Consider the values inherent in this story: humility, forgiveness, optimism, hope (Winston hopes to build a robot to continue sending apologies) |