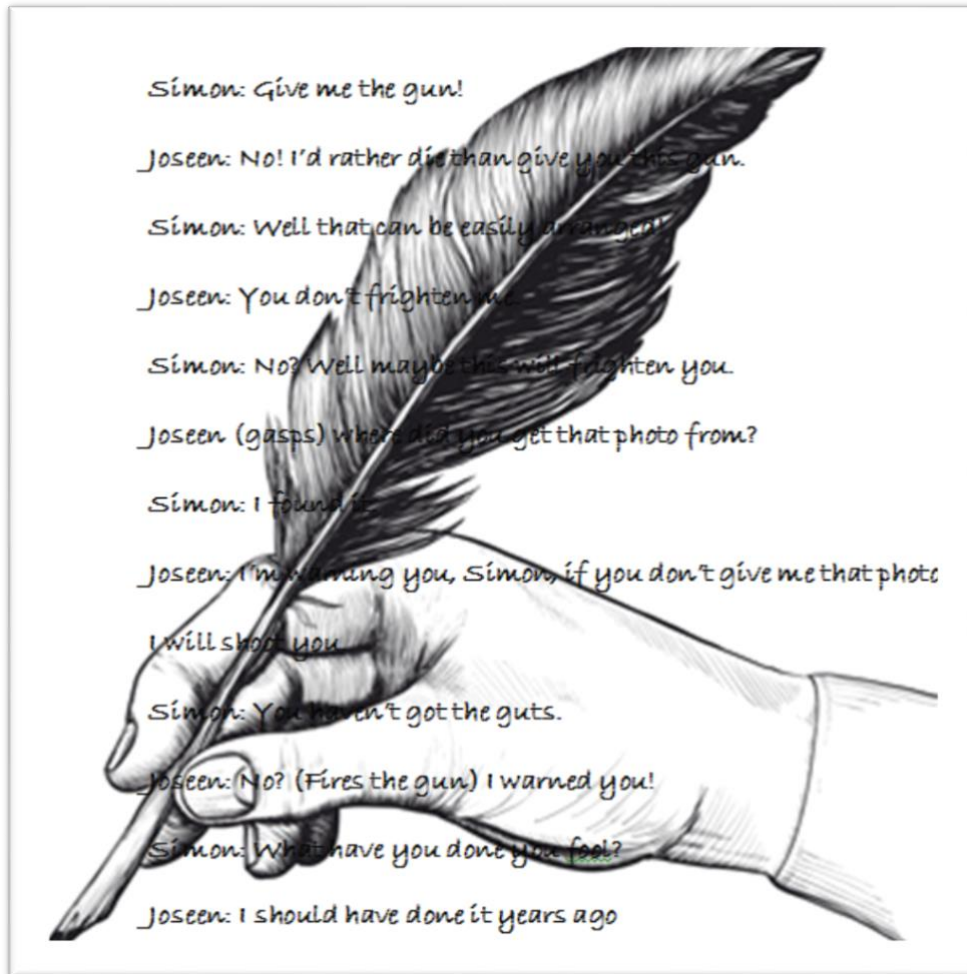


Ten Short Scripts



by

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10 Short Scripts

The following ten scripts stem from me needing material for Key Stage 3 students to learn “off by heart”. I had noticed that students in general are not good at this skill; I think we have to take some of the blame for not developing it sufficiently. Then we complain when it comes to GCSE and they don’t know their lines! Beside that the ability to memorise scripted words is obviously a transferable life skill.

The scripts do not form part of a scheme, leaving it up to you to integrate them into your own work. They are fully editable, are gender neutral (apart from **Dressed to Kill**, which could be cross-cast for a laugh or the clothing references changed to male ones) and contain very few stage directions, leaving students to make their own decisions. The plays therefore could be integrated into a “Page to Stage” Unit of work.

Each script is deliberately unfinished, giving students the option of continuing the play to its conclusion through devising. Most of them verge on the absurd; I’ve found that students’ initial reaction to this style is derision (“that would never really happen!”), then they love it because they realise they can go anywhere with it. Although mostly comedic, the finished plays certainly don’t need to have happy endings.

It is suggested that students are told that their additional devised part of the play should be about the same length as the written script.

Of the ten scripts there are 6 for pairs and 4 for groups of 3. This makes a total of 24 characters – about an average group size. If you have additional students, they could be directors.

Therefore you could:

- Set the whole group the same script in week 1, moving on to the next script in week 2 and so on to week 10, comparing different approaches.
- Set each pair/three a different script to work on in week 1 and see the finished plays in week 2 (and 3 if necessary).
- Use the scripts as a cover lesson.
- Encourage students to write a starter for the others in the group to use, perhaps as a homework task.
- Ask students to write the part of the script they have devised for script-writing practice.

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The Parking Problem

An unfinished script for three characters

Scene: In the Street

Characters: A Motorist

B Motorist

C A Police Officer

A Hello. Is this your car?

B Yes it is. Why?

A Well, that's **my** car you're blocking in.

B So?

A I'd like you to move it please.

B I'm busy.

A What?

B I'm busy.

A But you're not doing anything.

B Yes I am.

A What are you doing?

B I'm waiting for someone.

(C Enters)

A Ah, officer, I'm glad you're here.

C Is there a problem?

This script continues in the full resource

Abracadabra

An unfinished script for two characters

Scene: In a television rehearsal room

Characters: A Magician
B Assistant

A Now then, one more time. Final rehearsal. After the rabbit disappears, you pass me the cloak.

B Like this?

A Yes, but with the other hand.

B More like this?

A Yes, that's it.

B Then I secretly pass you the bunch of flowers...

A ...and Hey Presto! That's trick number three finished.

B Are you going to do the chopping off the head trick after that?

A What do you think? We could do the goldfish trick before that.

B No, do the head trick. I like that.

A Okay. "Ladies and gentlemen, I will now cut off my assistant's head".

B So I bend down over the chair like this...

A "This is a very dangerous trick, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls".

This script continues in the full resource

There is a complementary set of scripts to this set.

Ten Slightly Longer Scripts

are, as you might guess, longer than this set (two pages) and each script is complete.

There is a mixture of 2- and 3-handers and most of them are gender neutral.

If your students have enjoyed the scripts in this pack and are ready for more challenging work, **Ten Slightly Longer Scripts** challenges students to learn the given words and then perform the play, making their own directorial choices.

SAMPLE