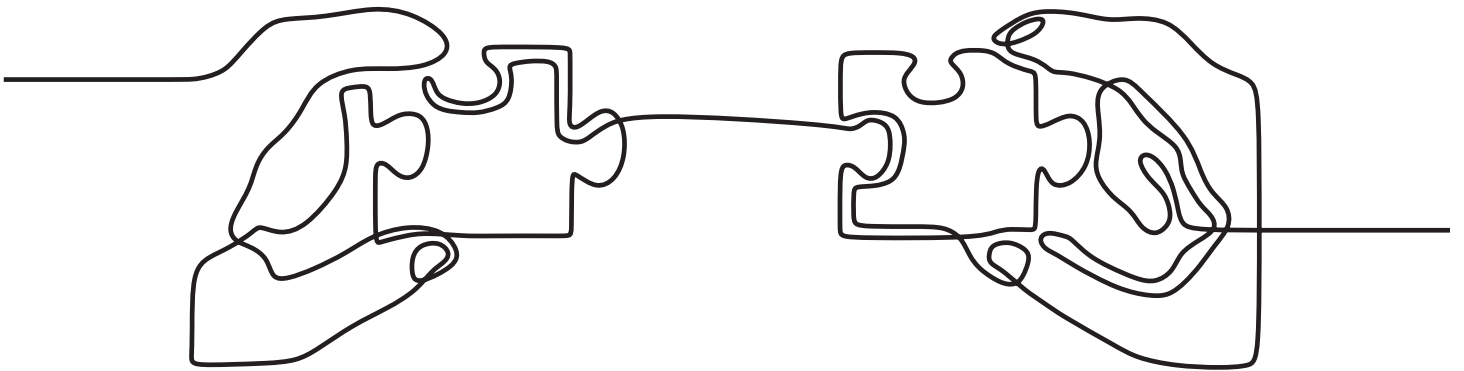


THEATER-MAKING AT HOME

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



CONTINUING THE SCENE

NAME :

SCHOOL / ORGANIZATION :



BE FEATURED!

Are you interested in sharing your new scene
with the Geffen community—and beyond?

If so, submit a written copy of your scene
continuation, referencing the scene on which
you have based your work.

If selected, your scene continuation will be featured
on the Geffen Playhouse website.

All submissions must be accompanied by
a completed consent form.

To download a consent form go to
<https://tinyurl.com/theatermaking>

If you have any questions, contact
Brian Allman, Manager of Theater Education at
BrianA@geffenplayhouse.org

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CONTINUING THE SCENE



THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION OF *BLACK SUPER HERO MAGIC MAMA*. PHOTO BY JEFF LORCH

Theater at its core is storytelling. Storytelling is an important part of human culture and history. Sharing narratives can illuminate where we come from and our current experiences, entertain us, strengthen our sense of shared values, and even allow us to envision future possibilities.

Creating stories can strengthen our imaginations, increase our communication skills and bonds with others, and enable us to share life lessons. Stories can be inspired by real life events or completely made up. Generally, characters are introduced in a setting where we follow them as they encounter obstacles and attempt to overcome them. As characters face challenges and find solutions, their individual needs, wants, choices, and actions are revealed. Conventional stories have a beginning, middle, and end. Many storytellers get creative and explore different story structures, such as in the Geffen Playhouse production of *Lights Out: Nat “King” Cole*, in which the story’s end is really just the beginning.

We all can tell stories, and in different ways. In the following pages, you will use an existing scene—from a play, television show, film, or video — and add on to it, using your imagination. You will choose how the scene continues to unfold, whether that is changing what happens to the characters, putting in an unexpected plot twist, or giving it an alternate ending.

Follow the steps and get creative! Remember, writing takes time and revision. Give yourself space to come up with ideas, look them over, adjust, and keep going.

Though these steps have been designed to guide you, there is no wrong or right way to write. As you continue to write in the future, feel free to explore other techniques. What’s most important is using your voice and telling your story!

HAVE FUN!



For more projects and theater warm-ups, please visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/theatermaking>

ACTIVITY

SELECTING AN EXISTING SCENE

A scene is a sequence in which a character or characters engage in action and/or dialogue. It can be a small section of a story's beginning, middle, or end that highlights specific aspects of the characters and their journey.

You will now choose an existing scene with which to work. Consider any memorable ones that come to mind from a favorite play, television show, film, story, or multimedia video. Below are some suggestions to spark your thinking. If possible, take some time to reread or rewatch scenes in order to select one.

GEFFEN PLAYS

Key Largo
Revenge Song
*Lights Out:
Nat "King" Cole*
Long Day's Journey into Night
The Legend of Georgia McBride

TELEVISION SHOWS

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
Friends
Law & Order
Jane the Virgin
I Love Lucy

FILMS

Singin' in the Rain
The Avengers Series
Coco
Bad Boys
Psycho
Train to Busan

FAMILIAR STORIES

The Three Little Pigs
The Ugly Duckling
Little Red Riding Hood
Goldilocks & the Three Bears

MULTIMEDIA VIDEOS

YouTube
Instagram
Facebook
Twitter
TikTok

WRITE DOWN THE SOURCE AND THE SCENE YOU SELECTED HERE:

ACTIVITY

SCENE DETAILS

With your selected scene in mind, you will now identify the different parts of this scene to help you imagine and write a continuation of it.

Fill out the details of the selected scene, in the spaces below.

CHARACTER NAME:	3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE:
CHARACTER NAME:	3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE:
CHARACTER NAME:	3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE:
CHARACTER NAME:	3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE:

WHAT ARE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN/AMONG THE CHARACTERS?

HOW DO THE CHARACTERS FEEL ABOUT ONE ANOTHER?

WHERE ARE THE CHARACTERS? HAS THE SETTING HAD AN IMPACT ON THE CHARACTERS? IF SO, HOW?

WHAT CONFLICT ARE THE CHARACTERS EXPERIENCING? HOW DID IT RESOLVE, OR NOT?

SUMMARIZE THE ENTIRE SELECTED SCENE IN A FEW SENTENCES.

ACTIVITY

BRAINSTORMING THE CONTINUATION OF THE SCENE

Now you will brainstorm and explore the possibilities of what could happen next. Think about the existing scene and imagine how it might continue to unfold. How might you change what happens to the characters, put in an unexpected plot twist, or give it an alternate ending?

Also consider the following:

- which characters will continue to be involved and how their relationships will develop
- how the setting might change
- what conflict or problem the characters might face.

Respond to the prompts below and jot down or sketch any possibilities that come to mind.

**WHICH CHARACTERS MIGHT BE IN THE NEW SCENE?
(THIS INCLUDES ANY EXISTING CHARACTERS AND NEW ONES YOU MIGHT ADD IN.)**

WHERE MIGHT THE CONTINUATION OF THE SCENE TAKE PLACE?

WHAT NEW CONFLICT OR PROBLEM MIGHT THE CHARACTERS FACE?

HOW MIGHT THEY CHOOSE TO SOLVE THE CONFLICT?

HOW MIGHT THE CHARACTERS ENGAGE IN ACTION AND/OR DIALOGUE?

HOW MIGHT THE CHARACTERS CHANGE OR GROW?

ACTIVITY

SUMMARIZING THE CONTINUATION OF THE SCENE

With your brainstorm ideas in mind, you will now select and put together your favorite possibilities. You will then summarize the beginning, middle, and end of the continuation of the scene.

Write at least 2-3 sentences or bullet points for each beginning, middle, and end section, to outline the continuation of your selected scene. Be sure to include the characters' names, the setting, and what happens between or among the characters.

BEGINNING

MIDDLE

END

BRINGING YOUR SCENE CONTINUATION TO LIFE

Having created a new scene based on the characters, setting, and action of an existing one, here is how you can bring it life and continue working on it:

Summarize the existing scene and read your continuation out loud to a family member or friend.

Turn your writing into a script! Use the Geffen Playhouse *Characters & Creating Dialogue* packet for guidance (tinyurl.com/theatermaking).

Consider writing your scene continuation in a different genre. Genre is the category or type of story. Examples: Comedy, Drama, Horror, Sci-Fi, Action Adventure, and Animated. Think about how a different genre might affect the characters, setting, and storyline.

MAKE A SKETCH OR TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS TO VISUALLY REPRESENT THE CONTINUATION OF THE SCENE.

REFLECTION

We hope that taking an existing scene and imagining how it might continue helped you think of the many ways stories can inspire new ideas and evolve.

Take a moment to reflect on your writing process and how it felt to write a continuation of a scene and bring it to life.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO CHOOSE THE EXISTING SCENE?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT HOW A SCENE IS CONSTRUCTED?

WHAT WAS THE MOST CREATIVE ADDITION OR CHANGE YOU MADE TO THE CHARACTERS, SETTING, OR ACTION OF THE EXISTING SCENE?

HOW MIGHT ENVISIONING NEW AND DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES BE APPLIED TO YOUR LIFE?