English
Quarter 1 – Module 3: The Writer’s Purpose
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English
Quarter 1 – Module 3:
The Writer’s Purpose
Introductory Message

This Self-Learning Module (SLM) is prepared so that you, our dear learners, can continue your studies and learn while at home. Activities, questions, directions, exercises, and discussions are carefully stated for you to understand each lesson.

Each SLM is composed of different parts. Each part shall guide you step-by-step as you discover and understand the lesson prepared for you.

Pre-tests are provided to measure your prior knowledge on lessons in each SLM. This will tell you if you need to proceed on completing this module or if you need to ask your facilitator or your teacher’s assistance for better understanding of the lesson. At the end of each module, you need to answer the post-test to self-check your learning. Answer keys are provided for each activity and test. We trust that you will be honest in using these.

In addition to the material in the main text, Notes to the Teacher are also provided to our facilitators and parents for strategies and reminders on how they can best help you on your home-based learning.

Please use this module with care. Do not put unnecessary marks on any part of this SLM. Use a separate sheet of paper in answering the exercises and tests. And read the instructions carefully before performing each task.

If you have any questions in using this SLM or any difficulty in answering the tasks in this module, do not hesitate to consult your teacher or facilitator.

Thank you.
What I Need to Know

This module was designed and written with you in mind. Primarily, its scope is to help you get information from news reports, speeches, informative talks, panel discussions, and many other more that can be used in everyday life. While going through this module, you are expected to:

1. note or get information for specific details or information by listening to panel discussions from news reports, speeches, informative talks, panel discussion;
2. identify effective listening approaches.

What I Know

Multiple Choice: Read each statement carefully and choose the best answer that fits the given description.

1. This pertains to the process by which a writer reveals the personality of a character.
   A. characterization  
   B. narration  
   C. exposition  
   D. description
2. An element of a story that generally refers to the time and place of the story.
   A. character  
   B. conflict  
   C. plot  
   D. setting
3. An element of the story used to describe the main events of the story.
   A. character  
   B. conflict  
   C. plot  
   D. setting
4. This is the technical term for someone who writes a story for a film.
   A. author  
   B. screenplay writer  
   C. scriptwriter  
   D. television writer
5. This film genre induces strong feelings of excitement, tension, suspense and other similar emotions.
   A. comedy  
   B. romance  
   C. thriller  
   D. drama
For numbers no. 6-10, choose the most likely author’s purpose from the given film plot descriptions.

A. even people that we call heroes have flaws
B. individuals have certain ways to cope with changes
C. the key to receiving enlightenment is to step aside from the ego
D. it is our duty to protect and save Mother Earth
E. stand up for your conviction

6. Sonita, a determined Afghan teenager who overcomes living as a refugee in Iran (where female singers are banned from singing solo) and her family’s plan to sell her into marriage to follow her dreams of becoming a rapper. (Sonita)

7. This documentary infuses empathy and ardor to our world’s oceans and their vibrant ecosystems, as well as those working hard to save what’s left of it. (Chasing Coral)

8. Goyo, one of the youngest generals during the Philippine-American war, led key battles but made key tactical mistakes. (Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral)

9. During World War II, an escaped prisoner-of-war man makes his way to Tibet, where he meets Dalai Lama, whose friendship ultimately transforms his outlook on life. (Seven Years in Tibet)

10. Riley’s mother praises her “brave and happy girl” for keeping a smile on her face through the family’s difficult transition. As the months go on, Riley struggles with the adjustment and her parents told her it’s normal to be sad. (Inside Out)

Read the scene description below then answer the following questions.

Written by Dan Fogelman, the movie Crazy, Stupid, Love is about a married couple, Cal played by Steve Carell and Emily starred by Julianne Moore, who are going through a divorce. Cal has moved out of the house but returned secretly to take care of the plants in the backyard.

When Emily calls Cal’s cell phone, she asks for help with lighting the water heater. Because he can see her through the window, he knows she’s not in the basement – the call is just an excuse to hear his voice.

11. Cal has moved out of the house but returned secretly to take care of the plants in the backyard. What is the character Cal’s subtext of this statement?

12. When Emily calls Cal’s cell phone, she asks for help with lighting the water heater. Because he can see her through the window, he knows she’s not in the basement – the call is just an excuse to hear his voice. What is the character Emily’s subtext from this scene in the film?

13-15. With the given story summary, one of the writer’s purposes is to highlight marriage crisis. Working on this premise, give your three insights on dealing with relationship crisis, not necessarily only marriage.
Lesson 1
The Writer’s Purpose

What’s In

When you talk about a film you have watched, there is always a storyline creatively written by its writer. This storyline is made up of different elements that coherently keep the story together. Let us review some of these elements.

The first is **characters**. In every story, there are different types of characters. They may be human beings in conflict with each other such as the **protagonists** and the **antagonists**. In some stories, you also see supernatural beings, animals or even inanimate objects as characters.

Related to this element, is the term **characterization**. This is the process by which a writer reveals the personality of a character. This is achieved by the writer **directly** telling the viewers what a character is like. For example, the dialogue “Michelle has always been a smug, wicked princess” is an explicit characterization. On the other hand, an **indirect characterization** relies on the reader to discover what the character is like. It doesn’t use verbal descriptions of a character, rather it relies on the behavior, speech, and appearance of the character.

Secondly, the **setting** is also an important story element. Now, there maybe more than one setting in a movie, and that is normal as the plot of the story develops. Setting can be a combination of a place of occurrence, the time in which the event takes place, a historical period, and even the weather described in the story. Some are specific like Mt. Olympus where gods and goddesses from Greek mythology are seen, while others are descriptive such as a ship on its maiden voyage in the ocean.

Last but not the least, is the **plot** of the film. Without the plot, there is really no story to be told. The plot is the story sequence where the characters systematically plays their roles. It is also where the setting acts a supporting element in the development of the story. A plot has a beginning, middle and end – with all the necessary descriptions called **exposition** – so that the viewer can make sense of the action and follow the story line. This is where another important element appears – the **conflict**. This refers to the struggle between opposing forces in a story.
Activity: What the Kings Says.

Here is a double puzzle. For the first puzzle, unscramble the letters to form words enumerating the various *film genres*. Then, use the letter in the numbered cells to the cells in the second puzzle below it to complete a quote from Stephen King.
**What is It**

**Your Guide to Film Genres**

By definition, a *film genre* is the term categorizing a film based on some stylistic criteria. From there, *sub-genres* are developed. The category of a film indirectly assists in shaping the characters and the story of the movie. The shaping determines the plot and setting used. Here are the basic film genres.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comedy</td>
<td>It is generally meant to make people laugh. Its subgenres include <em>slapstick comedy</em> and <em>romantic comedy</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horror</td>
<td>It aims to evoke viewers’ nightmares, fears, and terrors of the unknown. Its subgenres include <em>zombie horror</em> and <em>folk horror</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td>This has tremendous impact, continuous high energy, lots of physical stunts and activity. Some of its subgenres are <em>war &amp; military action</em>, <em>spy &amp; espionage action</em>, and <em>martial arts action</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sci-fi</td>
<td>Uses visionary, fictional science-based depictions through fanciful imaginative settings. Some of its subgenres are <em>space travel</em>, <em>time travel</em>, <em>robot and monster films</em>, and <em>alien invasion</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romance</td>
<td>The plot revolves around the love of its main characters such as courtship, forbidden love, or love triangles. Its subgenres include <em>historical romance</em>, <em>romantic drama</em>, <em>romantic comedy</em>, and <em>chick flick</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thriller</td>
<td>Induces strong feelings of excitement, tension, suspense and other similar emotions. Some of its subgenres are <em>conspiracy thriller</em>, <em>crime thriller</em>, and <em>spy thriller</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>This is a serious presentation or stories with settings or real-life situations that portray realistic characters in conflict with either themselves, others, or forces of nature. Its subgenres include <em>political drama</em>, <em>romantic drama</em>, and <em>melodrama</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fantasy</td>
<td>A film genre that most likely overlaps with sci-fi and other genres, but it bases its content on some degree of scientific truth, fairy-tale experiences and mystical beings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Take note that film genres can sometimes be difficult to identify because genres tend to overlap. Take the case of superhero-themed films where it can be categorized as an action type genre but also as sci-fi when the story involves Science in the story plot.

**The General Purposes of the Author**

Stephen King, a well-known American author, says, “Description begins in the writer’s imagination, but should finish in the reader’s.”

King explained that a writer is responsible in translating what he sees in his mind into words on pages. If he does this effectively, then the reader can experience what he (the writer) has penned in his story. In other words, his purpose of writing is revealed to the reader through his narration and description of the different story elements unified.

Now in relation to film, what could be a screenplay writer’s purpose in scripting a story for a film?

Generally, a film has the purposes of to entertain and to inform. It goes hand in hand with why an audience want to watch a film – to be entertained and to be informed.

Most of the time, something that we view for information purposes can be easily identified. Simply because the writer’s purpose is directly and explicitly known from its genre or its theme. For example, documentary films often feature biographies of well-known personalities like civil-rights leaders, president of a nation or even an ordinary individual who made an extra-ordinary contribution to the welfare of society.

On the other hand, to entertain does not necessarily mean to create a pleasant feeling such as when watching those ‘feel-good’ type of movies like comedies or those ‘happily ever after’ films.

Screenwriters (or television writers if referring to a writer for a television show) usually specializes in a genre. For instance, if the writer wants the audience to be frightened in one scene of the film, then the writer will develop a creepy characterization – this includes a character’s appearance, behavior and manner of speaking. Also, a frightening physical setting coupled with dark-themed backgrounds, and of course a chilling, spooky plot. When these story elements are in consonance with the film genre, then you realize that the writer’s purpose is to generally entertain its audience through a horror film. The writer has been able to successfully achieve his purpose for entertaining the audience by seamlessly unifying the characterization of characters, the setting and the storyline through the plot.

**A look at a movie scene**

On a deeper perspective however, a writer might want to evoke a certain emotion from the viewers. For example, a scene in the movie, Dead Poets Society. Keating, the teacher, was fired from his job because one of his students died and he
was blamed. Todd, a student, believes that his teacher was not at fault, so he stood to his desk as other students follow suit. Then, Todd, recited, “Oh captain, my captain” as a clever way to address his teacher. In this scene, Todd is mourning the loss of his hero - his teacher.

Like other films, the setting plays an important role in communicating the writer’s purpose. This is because it serves to anchor the story plot and characterization of actors. In other words, it gives context to the film. This particular scene in Dead Poets Society utilizes the classroom, that symbolizes a place of knowledge, to portray teacher-students relationship and how the learnings they have gained from their teacher made an impact to their sense of justice and free speech.

So, what do you think is the writer’s purpose in this iconic movie scene? Well, there may be more than one. Probably, the writer wants the audience to realize the greatness of a teacher – a teacher who inspires his student and makes a difference in their lives. Also, the writer would like to tell the audience that it is ok to stand up for what you believe is right, just like what Todd and his classmates did as they stood on top of the desks in their classroom. These two purposes can be claimed as subtexts of the film.

A subtext is an underlying message, theme, or metaphor being conveyed through the dialogues, images, background music, or even the whole film itself. These are not directly stated but rather realized by the audience as they appraise the characterizations, the settings, and the story plot.

Going beyond the entertainment value

Charlie is a shy teenager without friends who has just joined the high-school. He misses his best friend, who had committed suicide, and he writes letters to an imaginary friend telling his feelings. Further, Charlie has a mental illness problem in his past. Soon Charlie befriends the veterans Patrick, who is gay, and his stepsister Sam and they become best friends. Charlie wants to be a writer and he also becomes the favorite student of his teacher of literature, Mr. Anderson, who lends him books. Sam and Patrick introduce Charlie to their friends and Charlie falls in love with Sam, but he does not have self-confidence to date her. Charlie discovers a new world and feels happy with his friends, and he dates their common friend Mary Elizabeth. But when they end their relationship, Patrick asks Charlie to stay away from them for a while and soon he triggers his mental illness again. He goes to the hospital where a doctor finally discloses the origin of his problem.—Claudio Carvalho, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Article source: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1659337/plotsummary

(Charlie), being a wallflower, is complemented in the settings of the story – in the classroom, at their home, and at a social gathering. These settings heighten the visual and emotional impacts of the movie scenes. And as the story plot unfolds, you see a dynamic change of Charlie as his character develops. Note that the plot, as a series of events that form the story, is the framework that binds the other story elements. Through the plot, characterization of the characters progress with the story setting providing the needed support to bring out what the writer wants to convey.

While the film is viewed because of its entertainment value, the author also intends to make the audience ponder on substantial realizations. One could be to let the viewers look at the perspective of someone who experiences struggles. That, like Charlie, has internal conflicts characterizing him as a wallflower. That there may be reasons why a person becomes introverted such as having a troublesome past. Another reason why the author probably wrote this story, is to show that being in high school can be difficult for people like Charlie. However, with the support of friends and teachers, then high school life can be bearable.

For you to understand the purpose of the writer, you need to evaluate the characterizations of the characters such as the emotions they portray and the delivery of their dialogues. Through characterization, the writer lets you discover the personality of the characters and why it matters in the plot of the story. You also consider the settings, including the physical set up, time of the event, and the musical background played as these cements the mood and tone of scenes. Lastly, the plot provides you with the storyline that gives you the overall picture of the story.
What’s More

Activity 1: In Character: The Iconic Lines

Good acting of good actors results in good characterization. In this activity try to get into character. Recite these famous lines from movies and guess what film genre they belong to. Write the letter of your choice only.

1. “Be afraid. Be very afraid.”
2. There’s no crying in baseball.”
4. “With great power comes great responsibility.”
5. “Dead or alive, you’re coming with me.”
6. “But know this, you have nothing to fear, if you having to hide.”
7. “To me, you are perfect.”
8. “Love means never having to say you’re sorry.”
9. “You’re nothing but a second-rate, trying hard copycat!”
10. “I see dead people.”

A. Horror  B. Thriller  C. Romance
D. Science Fiction  E. Action  F. Drama
Activity 2: The story behind the setting

A lot of times, the setting used in a film has its own story to tell. So, apart from being entertained in watching a film, you can also learn a thing or two of the settings used in the development of the story.

The Titanic, as the movie poster shows, does not only tell you the title of the film but the main setting of the story. Write a one-paragraph description on why the setting of the story is Titanic? What does the author want the audience to discover about this ship?

Why Titanic?

Activity: It’s more than an advertisement.

For better appreciation of this digital advertisement, you can watch it on Youtube. Just type in the search bar, Kwentong Jollibee: Parangal (Tribute).

This digital advertisement is a play up of a graduation ceremony in a school auditorium where the stage sports a sign that says, “21st Commencement Exercises.” A teenage boy, dressed in his graduation toga, is focused on the screen as he walks toward the lectern applauded by his teachers and the audience. He then delivers his graduation speech.
Read the transcript of his speech written in the vernacular.


Answer these questions on your answer sheet.
1. How did the setting contribute to the overall impact of the storyline?
2. Imagine yourself on the shoes of the actor who delivered his graduation speech, how will you deliver it? Will your words be spoken with a grateful heart? Describe it.
3. What does the graduation speech reflect with regards to Filipino values?

What I Have Learned

Activity: Filling in those blanks

Skim the paragraph below and scan for the needed information from the previous sections of this module to complete the thoughts and ideas being established.

A writer is a general term for someone who composes. In films, a writer is known as a 1. ____________ writer. There are two main purposes for a writer in writing a story – to 2. ______________ and to 3. ______________. Sometimes, a writer’s intention is to evoke a certain 4. ______________ as the audience watches a certain scene.

Three story elements 5. ______________ are appraised by the viewers if the writer has achieved his purpose in a film, namely the characters, the settings, and the plot. Story characters, through the writer’s 6. ______________, lead the way to the realization of the writer’s 7. ______________ as they are usually the central element of a story. This is supported by the story’s setting where the 8. ______________ and tone are established evoking an increased 9. ______________ or reaction from the audience. Lastly, the plot paves the way for the 10. ______________ of the film.
Task: A Guided Spec Script

A ‘spec script’ is short for “speculative screenplay.” You write a spec on the speculation that what you wrote is good enough to be taken by film producers and eventually be used to produce a film. Look at the example.

```
INT. DON’S OFFICE – DAY

Hagen is alone in the office. He is drinking. He looks up at the sound of cars: the caporegimes are arriving. Then he hears footsteps.

The door opens and in a robe with slippers, Don Corleone slowly enters the room. He walks directly to his stuffed armchair and sits down. His face is stern as he looks into Hagen’s eyes.

DON CORLEONE
Give me a drop of anisette.

Hagen rises, and pours a glass for the old man.

DON CORLEONE
My wife was weeping before she fell asleep, outside my window.
I saw my caporegimes to the house, and it is midnight. So, consigliore of mine, I think you should tell your Don what everyone knows.

HAGEN
(quietly)
I didn’t tell mama anything. I was about to come up and wake you and tell you. Just now.

DON CORLEONE
But you need a drink first.
```

For this activity, compose your spec script for an existing television series of your choice. This means that you may use existing characters and settings of your chosen TV series. However, you will just compose a sample of it. A major criterion for your sample spec script is that it should have a subtext.
Follow the given template for your spec script. Be guided by the provided rubric as well.

### MY SPEC SCRIPT

**Scene description (location, time of day, physical setting):**

________________________________________________________

**Scene narration:**

________________________________________________________

**Dialogue block:**

________________________________________________________

**Subtext from the scene:**

________________________________________________________

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORIES</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Fair</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Components:</strong></td>
<td>All significant details and descriptions on the components are clearly</td>
<td>Much significant details and descriptions on the components are clearly stated in the spec script.</td>
<td>Details and descriptions on the components of the spec script does not lead to any discovery of a subtext.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stated in the spec script and has an underlying subtext that can be</td>
<td>It has an underlying subtext but quite difficult for the readers to comprehend.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>comprehended by the readers.</td>
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<td>(10 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtext</strong></td>
<td>The subtext is clearly reflective of the spec script.</td>
<td>The subtext does not clearly reflect narrations from the spec script.</td>
<td>The subtext is not reflective of the spec script.</td>
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<td>(5 points)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mechanics and</strong></td>
<td>Spec Script has no more than two errors in punctuation,</td>
<td>Spec Script has three to four errors in punctuation,</td>
<td>Spec Script has more than four errors in punctuation,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grammar</strong></td>
<td>capitalization, spelling, and grammar.</td>
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**Assessment**

**Multiple Choice:** Read each statement carefully and choose the best answer that fits the given description.

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Read the scene description below then answer the following questions.

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When Emily calls Cal’s cell phone, she asks for help with lighting the water heater. Because he can see her through the window, he knows she’s not in the basement – the call is just an excuse to hear his voice.

11. Cal has moved out of the house but returned secretly to take care of the plants in the backyard. What is the character Cal’s subtext of this statement?

12. When Emily calls Cal’s cell phone, she asks for help with lighting the water heater. Because he can see her through the window, he knows she’s not in the basement – the call is just an excuse to hear his voice. What is the character Emily’s subtext from this scene in the film?

13-15. With the given story summary, one of the writer’s purposes is to highlight marriage crisis. Working on this premise, give your three insights on dealing with relationship crisis, not necessarily only marriage.
**Additional Activity**

Watch a film of your choice that is appropriate for your age. Then, pick a scene from that movie which you think depicts the writer’s purpose of evoking a certain emotion or even a subtext. Justify that movie scene by telling something about the characterization, the description of the setting and the background of the plot. Do this through a short narration using the template below.

---

**Title of the film:**  

**Film Genre:**  

**Synopsis or description of a scene:**

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________

**The Writer's Purpose:**  

__________________________________________________________________

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### Answer Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Puzzle 1:</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>COMEDY</th>
<th>DRAMA</th>
<th>FANTASY</th>
<th>HORROR</th>
<th>MYSTERY</th>
<th>SUSPENSE</th>
<th>THRILLER</th>
<th>SCIENCE FICTION</th>
<th>DOCUMENTARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. Call does not like to appear in front of his family but he still misses them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What I Know/Assessment</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. A
| 2. D
| 3. C
| 4. B
| 5. C
| 6. E
| 7. D
| 8. A
| 9. C
| 10. B |
| Puzzle 2: |
| "Description begins in the writer's imagination, but should finish in the reader's." |
| What's More |
| 1. A
| 2. F
| 3. D
| 4. E
| 5. A/E
| 6. B/E
| 7. C
| 8. C
| 9. F
| 10. A |
| Additional Activity: *answers may vary as students can search for factual and historical information about the ship.* |
| What I Have Learned |
| 1. screenplay writer |
| 2. inform |
| 3. entertain (2 & 3 may be interchanged) |
| 4. emotion |
| 5. elements |
| 6. characterization |
| 7. purpose |
| 8. mood |
| 9. response |
| 10. storyline |
| Activity 3: Possible answers: |
| 1. The setting establishes the tone and atmosphere eliciting an emotional response from the viewers. |
| 2. If I were that teenage boy, I will deliver my speech while looking at my mother seated in the auditorium. I will speak with a grateful heart, thanking her for the sacrifices she has made. |
| 3. The digital commercial hopes to imprint on the minds of the viewers the value of sacrifice, a sacrifice rooted in the minds of the viewers. |
| What I Can Do: |
| 1. screenplay writer |
| 2. inform |
| 3. entertain (2 & 3 may be interchanged) |
| 4. emotion |
| 5. elements |
| 6. characterization |
| 7. purpose |
| 8. mood |
| 9. response |
| 10. storyline |
References


Main Film Genres. https://www.filmsite.org/genres.html.

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