



Watch from the scene ending with Winky lying in bed saying "I'm not small." up until Dad asks, "But what about your shoes?" at the end of the department store scene.

A scriptwriter for a film has to write dialogue and dramatic action in a format that tells the story for the screen. Scripts for films are often written directly as screenplays but sometimes they are taken from real life stories, books and stage plays. A film script describes the setting, the characters and explains what they do and say.

Watch the scene from where the reviewer visits the restaurant to the point where Winky and Dad are in the department store. We don't see their journey, but the children will be taking on the role of a scriptwriter to script this 'missing scene'.

As a class, discuss the main ideas of the scene and get them to continue the characters, setting and events in keeping with the tone of the film.

## Setting

In the script, there would need to be brief details of where the scene is set as Winky and Dad pause at a crossing.

Discuss why and how characters are placed in a setting, e.g. when Winky sees the lady shopkeeper who chases her off her front step. She says 'That's that lady who tells me to keep off the step!'

## Character

What is Winky feeling and thinking? More importantly, which thoughts and feelings would she share with Dad, remembering that the horse is still a secret.

How would Dad react and is he suspicious at all? He must have noted his daughter's strange behaviour and he might try to question this.

Would they discuss Mum, school, Saint Nicholas or Aunt Cor and Uncle Sein?

## Events

Do they discuss the shoes on the way? Mum coming back soon? Horse riding lessons?

Do they notice and comment on other children getting ready for St. Nicholas' arrival?

Remember to direct children to the script example in their pupil book, as film scripts are formatted differently from theatre scripts.

## **Sample Script**

### **EXT. JUNGLE – NIGHT**

The jungle, twisted and lush. It's quiet... We realise we are looking **DIRECTLY AT A SOLDIER** in black and grey tiger stripe camouflage. He speaks into his **WHISPER-MIKE**.

#### **CAPTAIN**

*Move now.*

A **WAVE** of **STATIC** overwhelms his quiet order.

#### **CAPTAIN (cont'd)**

*Rats. – Unit move, now!*

**MOVEMENT** all around, as a hidden **SEAL TEAM** moves from the shadows – **TWENTY** in all.

#### **CAPTAIN (cont'd)**

*Briggins?*

One **SOLDIER** crawls forward. The captain gives a signal to 'move forward' and 'look.' **BRIGGINS** crawls silently forward like a snake, to a **BREAK** in the bush. He raises a pair of advanced **ELECTRONIC BINOCULARS**.

#### **LOCATION**

Describe the location  
(ext.- exterior, int.- interior) **IN CAPITALS  
AND BOLD, AND JUSTIFIED LEFT**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Instructions for actors are justified left,  
with important details **CAPITALISED**

#### **CHARACTER NAMES**

Character names should be in **CAPITALS**,  
underlined and centre justified

#### **DIALOGUE/SPEECH**

*Speech should be indented and in italics*

#### **ACTION/EVENTS**

Events are written in the present tense



Watch from where the film was stopped at the end of the department store scene up until when Winky says, "Tomorrow I will get a horse." She brushes her teeth.

Link making is a very important skill needed in making a film. A film crew have a continuity team who work with the writer and the director to make sure that all the scenes of the film will edit together, that there are no continuity errors in dialogue, lighting, props or actors positioning from shot to shot.

In this activity, children take part in a graffiti 'walk about talk about' exercise in which they consider as a team, the links between this film and anything they have seen, read, played or heard before.

Split the class into four groups. Prepare four large sheets of paper with the following headings and space the groups around the room;

**SEEN** TV, films, adverts etc.  
(character, setting, story)

**READ** Books, comics, articles  
(character, setting, story)

**PLAYED** computer games, internet  
(character, setting, story)

**HEARD** music, lyrics, soundtracks  
(character, setting, story)

Assign each group a topic and a different coloured pen. Each group must list any links they can make between this scene and their topic. After a chosen length of time each group move onto the next station (with their pen). At their new station, groups must tick ideas they agree with and then cross those they don't, before adding their own suggestions. Groups repeat this process until they reach their original topic, then they feed back all the ideas to the class. At this point, any differences in opinion can be discussed.



Watch the film from where Winky says "Tomorrow I will get a horse." up until Saint Nicholas says goodbye to Winky on the bench.

In this activity, the Screen Detectives complete a mind map of either the whole movie or a single scene, incorporating any or all of the other Screen Detectives roles. They should complete the mindmap provided, or preferably, use it as a basis for a larger mind map (A3).

## Things to think about:

**Casting Agent** - characters, relationships, conflict, point of view etc.

**Director** - types of shot, reasons why (could include thumbnail sketches) etc.

**Method Actor** - who, where, when and why for specific characters.

**Cinematographer** – important and recurring images or symbols etc.

**Foley Artist** - music, dialogue, sound effects, volume, silence etc.

**Scriptwriter** - character, events, setting etc.

**Linkmaker** - seen, read, heard played similar things.



Watch the film from where Winky and Santa are on the bench to the end of the film.

A closing sequence is just as important as the opening. Often it will mirror the opening sequence in many ways. It will answer questions perhaps introduced in the start of the film and should tie up character and story threads.

As a class, look at the following discussion points.

- Why is the car used again in this scene?
- We've seen a car twice before, when Winky and Mum arrive from China and when Mum leaves to go back. Perhaps it is used to chunk the film into chapters.
- This journey is clearly going to be a significant one.
- Why do we see Winky from the back when her Christmas present is revealed?

Earlier, we talked about the importance of the colour red. In this scene, we see only two characters wearing predominantly red. These are Winky and Saint Nicholas. What might this show?

- This shows the link between the characters.
- It also shows the relationship built up between the two of them.

Another theme glimpsed at the end of the film is circles, or things coming full circle. This might be to mirror the first scene and round of the film. What examples of this are in this scene?

- The only time all of the Wongs are seen in the car together is right at the start and right at the end.
- The camera circles round Winky at the end, slowly revealing many of the characters from the film.
- Audiences need characters to make some kind of emotional journey in a film, and that journey should be tied up nicely at the end.

Discuss the following characters and how they have changed in the course of the film.

## Mum

- Mum seems much more happy and relaxed than when we first met her.
- She is able to touch the horse- compare this to how scared she was when she first met Saartje.
- She is happy and able to communicate with Dutch people.
- She is less cautious and more accepting of Winky's need to be independent.

## Dad

- Like Mum, he is very happy and smiley.
- This may be the first time we have seen him very far away from the comfort of his restaurant since the airport.
- He can see and admits that he was wrong not to give Winky more independence.



## WINKY'S JOURNEY

Think about the journey that Winky has been on.

"I can do it all on my own. When I first came to the Netherlands I didn't know anything about it. Nor did my father and mother. They didn't even know Saint Nicholas. But now they do, fortunately!"

The film started with a very insecure little girl who didn't know anything about her new home. She was very protected by her Mum who was afraid of accepting a new culture. She didn't know any Dutch nor have any friends outside of her family.

She is now fluent in her second language and has a clear understanding of Dutch culture, especially Christmas. She has even made lifelong friends, both young and old. She has become a very strong link between her family and the Netherlands.









**SCREEN DETECTIVE ROLE:**  
DIRECTOR



**SCREEN DETECTIVE ROLE:**  
CINEMATOGRAPHER



**SCREEN DETECTIVE ROLE:**  
SCRIPT WRITER



**SCREEN DETECTIVE ROLE:**  
FOLEY ARTIST



**SCREEN DETECTIVE ROLE:**  
CONTINUITY (LINK MAKER)



**SCREEN DETECTIVE ROLE:**  
MIND MAPPING



**SCREEN DETECTIVE ROLE:**  
METHOD ACTOR



**SCREEN DETECTIVE ROLE:**  
CASTING AGENT





## **WINKY'S HORSE**

### **Screen Detectives Feature Film Resource**

Authors James Miller and Lorna Grant

Edited by Margaret Foley and Joe Hall

For information about purchasing the DVD or schools screenings of the film 'Winky's Horse' please go to [www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk)