



# **Story Scripts:** What, Why and How

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# **This session addresses...**

...what story scripts are

...how I use them in class

...why I use them with my students

...how I write them

# Mis Niños

(What's Eben saying to his sister?...  
Make up the Dialogue)



# What is a TPRS Story Script?

Story Completion Activity

Information Gap Activity (hat tip Eric Herman)

Storyasking (credit Jason Fritze) Outline

(L2 Mad Lib)

Narration Co-Creation Prompt

# Co-Creating a Story

(The story we made up together, variables underlined)

- Dana is watching Scandal with Kerry Washington.
- Kerry Washington hates Scandal.
- Kerry Washington says, “Change the channel.”
- Dana changes the channel to ...

(Revised and Simplified Version of this Script in Previous Slide)

## Change the Channel

Henry is watching Cribs with Jared. Jared says, "Change the channel please, I can't stand big houses. Henry changes the channel.

Henry and Jared are watching Glee. Jared says, "Change the channel please, I can't stand high school." Henry changes the channel.

# Some Storyasking Sides

- Jobs
- Public Individual Dictation
- 3 Question Pop Quiz
- TPR
- Stand up if... (opinion poll)
- Spell it
- Math

# Brainstorm Questions

- Comprehension Questions: We know what the answer is
- Storyasking Questions (i.e. Vertical and Horizontal Questions): We are looking for new information
- Personalization Questions: We are finding out more about our students' lives

# Why I Use Story Scripts

- Simple and successful storylines
- Existing parallel stories and illustrations at hand
- Tether us to a plot

# Targeted vs Untargeted

Target Structure: An anchor from which we safely explore the waters. The more experienced we get, the more line we can let out and the further we can venture. We come to find we no longer need target structures/anchors. (Credit Nathaniel Hardt for the anchor image)

# How I Write Scripts

**KEEP IT SIMPLE!!**

**How Can I Involve My Students in the Story?**

**Can They Answer for the Variables?  
(cognates, proper nouns, vocab they already know)**

**Read and Use Other Peoples' Scripts  
(e.g. Anne Matava)**

# How did I script this Story?

- Haiyun Lu is at her house cooking.
- Someone knocks at the door.
- The person says, “Let me enter please”.
- Haiyun wants it to be Señor Wooly.
- Haiyun lets the person enter.
- It’s Beyonce!
- Haiyun thinks, “I can’t believe it.”

# How I scripted the story

- Haiyun Lu is at her house cooking.
- Someone knocks at the door.
- The person says, “Let me enter please”.
- Haiyun wants it to be Señor Wooly.
- Haiyun lets the person enter.
- It's Beyonce!
- Haiyun thinks, “I can't believe it.”

# Let's Simplify!

Pick 1-2 sentences to remove from the following script (*...and still retain a coherent storyline*)

# The Stranger

*someone knocks  
Let me in!  
wants it to be*

Aaron is in his room studying Chinese. Someone knocks on his door. The person says, "Let me in please." Aaron wants it to be the pizza delivery guy. He lets the person in. It's Bob Sagget. Aaron says, "I can't believe it."

# The Stranger

*someone knocks  
wants it to be*

Aaron is in his room studying Chinese. Someone knocks on his door. Aaron wants it to be the pizza delivery guy. But it's Bob Sagget. Aaron says, "Cool!"

# Thank you!!

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