

Lights, Camera, Literacy!
High School Edition
Lesson Plan #11

Topics:

Journal Writing

Tim Burton

Edward Scissorhands

Caroline Thompson Interview

One Column Script Elements

Outcomes:

Students will follow organizational procedures.

Students will see, hear, and use applicable vocabulary.

Students will watch and analyze the film, Edward Scissorhands.

Students will discuss different flashback techniques.

Students will be introduced to script formatting elements.

Materials:

Journals

LCD projector or Promethean Board

Chart paper and Post-its or Promethean Board

Edward Scissorhands DVD

Class set: [Edward Scissorhands Script](#)

Caroline Thompson interview

Tim Burton's High School Drawing

HANDOUTS:

Basic Script Elements

Caroline Thompson Interview Capture Sheet

New Vocabulary: Script, Slug Line

Sequence of Events:

I. Journal Writing (15)

Prompt: **What did you think of your green screen film? What might you do differently in order to make it even better?**

II. Freaks, Nerds, & Weirdos Part 1 (20)

1. Remind students of the Alice in Wonderland green screen clips. Tell students that the Alice in Wonderland feature film from which those clips were taken was directed by Tim Burton. Ask students if they've heard of Tim Burton and if they know any of his other films. Show his filmography at IMDB.com.

[Tim Burton's Filmography](#)

Show the 10 minute video about Tim Burton from the MTV series, Freaks, Nerds, and Weirdos.

[Freaks, Nerds, & Weirdos \(Part 1\)](#)

Ask students to share their reactions.

2. Point out that one common theme in all of the films in this course is the presence of one or more characters as an outsider. Annie, the elderly homeless woman, in The Shopping Bag Lady, and Sheldon, in the film I'm Here. Tim Burton himself was considered an outsider and he created a film Edward Scissorhands that also includes an outsider.

Edward Scissorhands was inspired by a drawing Tim Burton did when he was in high school. As a child and young adult, Tim Burton often felt different from the other kids. Through his drawings he sought to escape the conformity of the American suburb of Burbank City, CA. where he lived. Art became his way out.

He identified with his characters whom he depicted as timid and left out. His creativity and his artistic freedom became a characteristic trait of his films.

[CLICK HERE TO DISPLAY THE ORIGINAL TIM BURTON DRAWING](#)

III. Edward Scissorhands (120)

1. Show students the film Edward Scissorhands in its entirety.
2. Have students share their initial reactions.

IV. Caroline Thompson Interview (20)

1. Hand out the Caroline Thompson Capture Sheet.

[Caroline Thompson Interview Capture Sheet](#)

2. Watch the interview with Caroline Thompson, who grew up in Bethesda, MD. and wrote the script for Edward Scissorhands.

[Caroline Thompson Interview](#)

(pass code to access video: lcl)

Afterward, ask students for their reactions.

V. Narrative Script Elements & Formatting (20)

1. Pass out copies of the Edward Scissorhands **SCRIPT** and allow students time to look through them. Ask students to identify different elements of the script in regards to structure and formatting.
2. Ask students to turn to page 7 in the Edward Scissorhands script. Display the same page with annotations on the overhead and review the basic script elements:

Basic Script Elements Handout

- **Scene #** on far left is next to **SLUG LINE**
- **Slug line** on far left is in ALL CAPS. The Slug line shows location, whether it's an interior or exterior scene (INT. or EXT.) and the time of day.
- **Action** includes a short concise description of what the viewer sees.
- **Character's Names** in center ALL CAPS
- **Dialogue** in center directly under character's names

VI. Reflection (15)

1. Direct students to the hanging chart paper labeled:

What have you learned about the film Edward Scissorhands from watching the Caroline Thompson interview?

2. Hand out Post-its on which students write an item to post on the chart.
3. Review the comments on the Post-its with the class, so students have a sense of what was learned that day. Make sure to clear up any misconceptions.