

Script to Screen

Compare a drama script with choices in a filmed production.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.7 “Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details from the script, circle details from the filmed production, and number each director or actor choice. These marks will help you compare what stayed the same and what changed.

The Last Bell

- ① In the drama *The Last Bell*, Mara waits alone in the school clock tower after a storm. The script says rain taps the windows while she reads a note from her brother, Eli, who has left town. When the bell rope moves, Mara calls, “Eli?” A janitor enters with a flashlight and tells her that Eli asked him to deliver a train ticket. Mara folds the note, takes the ticket, and walks downstairs as the bell rings once.
- ② In a filmed production, the tower scene begins with a wide shot of the flooded schoolyard, then cuts to Mara at the window. No rain is heard. The actor playing Mara holds Eli’s note but does not read it aloud. Instead of calling his name when the rope moves, she pulls the rope herself. The janitor appears without a flashlight and places the ticket on a table. He exits before Mara picks it up. The final bell rings three times.
- ③ During a post-show discussion, the director said the opening schoolyard shot was meant to show the storm’s damage before the audience entered the tower. She also said that removing the spoken line gave the actor room to show Mara’s reaction through a tightened grip on the note and a long pause. The actor chose to look at the closed stairwell door after the janitor leaves. A reviewer noted that the ticket remains on the table in the camera frame while Mara stands several steps away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

- 1** Identify one important event that the film keeps from the script. Explain how this similarity preserves part of the original story.

- 2** What change makes Mara seem more active in the film? Explain why this actor or director choice changes her role in the moment.

- 3** Compare how the storm is presented in the script and in the film. How does the director's use of sound and camera imagery shift the audience's attention?

- 4** Is the filmed production mostly faithful, partly faithful, or mostly different from the script? State a claim and support it with two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine that you are directing a new filmed version of this scene. Write exactly four sentences that describe one script detail you would keep and one detail you would change, then explain how your choices would shape the audience's understanding of Mara.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details from the script, circle details from the filmed production, and number each director or actor choice. These marks will help you compare what stayed the same and what changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Identify one important event that the film keeps from the script. Explain how this similarity preserves part of the original story.	The film keeps the janitor bringing Eli's train ticket to Mara. This preserves the plot point that Eli's message reaches her in the tower.
2	What change makes Mara seem more active in the film? Explain why this actor or director choice changes her role in the moment.	In the film, Mara pulls the bell rope herself instead of calling "Eli?" when it moves. Pulling the rope makes her active because she causes the bell movement rather than responding to it.
3	Compare how the storm is presented in the script and in the film. How does the director's use of sound and camera imagery shift the audience's attention?	The script uses rain tapping the tower windows, while the film uses a wide shot of the flooded schoolyard and no rain sound. The film shifts attention from the storm inside the tower to its visible damage outside.
4	Is the filmed production mostly faithful, partly faithful, or mostly different from the script? State a claim and support it with two details from the passage.	The production is partly faithful. It keeps Mara in the tower, Eli's note and ticket, and the bell, but it changes Mara's action, the janitor's flashlight, the rain sound, and the number of bell rings.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would keep the script's single bell at the end because it can mark Mara's decision to leave the tower. I would change the ending by showing a close-up of her placing the ticket beside Eli's note before she walks downstairs. This added action would show that she connects the two objects. My version would stay faithful to the main event while making Mara's response clearer.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately distinguish script details from film details. For evaluative responses, accept different claims when students support them with specific evidence and explain a reasonable effect of a director or actor choice.