

Radio Drama Script Writing Contest

In order to promote and encourage creative writing in the middle school/junior high school classroom, Balance Publishing Company is sponsoring a radio drama script writing contest. If the response is positive for our first contest, we plan to repeat the contest twice each year. The two anticipated deadlines are November 30 and May 28.

Current Contest Guidelines

Submission deadline for current contest: May 28, 2004. (All authors following our guidelines will be notified of the winners in early September, 2004.)

GUIDELINES:

1. Author(s) must be students in grades 6, 7, 8, or 9 at the time the script is written.
2. Submitted scripts will be judged on how effectively the script combines dialogue and sound to tell a story and develop appropriate visual images in the listener's mind.
3. Stories with strong female characters have strong appeal to us.
4. Scripts must be typewritten in the format described on page 3.
5. All genres will be accepted, but sexual or violent content inappropriate for discussion in the general middle or high school classroom will disqualify the script.
6. The preferred length for scripts is 10 to 25 minutes. Longer scripts may be submitted but may be penalized in the reading process if not tightly written.
7. Script must be the original work of the author(s). No adaptations.
8. All authors must have a sponsoring teacher.
9. Title Page must contain the following:

Author(s) Name(s):

Author(s) Address: *(Optional - Include when notification is to be sent to the author(s) address instead of the school's address.)*

Author(s) City, State ZIP *(Optional - Include when notification is to be sent to the author(s) address instead of the school's address.)*

School's Name:

School's Address:

School's City, State ZIP:

School's Phone #:

Sponsoring Teacher's Name:

10. Include a cover letter stating that the script is the original work of the author(s), signed by author(s) and the sponsoring teacher.
11. Enclose a self addressed stamped envelope if you wish a copy of the script returned.

QUESTIONS:

Contact Balance Publishing Company for clarification of guidelines.

Email: balance02@sprynet.com (Put "Radio Drama Script Contest" in

OR write to: Don Kisner, Balance Publishing Company, 1346 South Quality Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657.

TO SUBMIT:

Send TWO typewritten copies of the script to:

Radio Drama Script Contest
Balance Publishing Company
1346 South Quality Avenue
Sanger, CA 93657

PRIZES:

Middle/Junior High School (Grades 6, 7, 8, 9) Prizes:

1st Prize: \$50.00

2nd Prize: \$25.00

3rd Prize: \$15.00

4th Prize: \$ 5.00

5th Prize: \$ 5.00

RIGHTS:

1. Balance Publishing Company acquires all rights to PRODUCE AND PUBLISH WINNING SCRIPTS FOR EDUCATION RELATED PURPOSES. These rights include but are not limited to school productions, classroom productions, individual and compilation publication for play reading purposes. *Note: All scripts will be considered for production/publication, but it should be understood that no promise of such production or publication is being made. Author(s) will be notified if and when such production or publication is done.*
2. Author(s) will receive a copy of any production recording or publication of the script done by Balance Publishing Company.
3. All professional and non-education related rights are retained by the author(s).

Script Format

Script Format Description:

1. Font size is 12. Use a font style that is easy to read. This font is Times New Roman.
2. Scene headings are centered and in UPPERCASE.
3. Setting notations are UPPERCASE, [bracketed], and centered on the line below the scene heading.
4. Sound effect notations are UPPERCASE and underlined. The label starts at the left margin, is followed by a colon, a hard left indent, and the sound effect description.
5. Character labels are UPPERCASE followed by a colon and a hard return.
6. Character lines are lowercase with appropriate caps.
7. Stage directions and character interpretation notations are UPPERCASE enclosed in (parentheses).

Example:

SCENE TWO
[INSIDE SPACESHIP]

SOUND ONE: FADE IN SPACESHIP BACKGROUND.

MANUAL SOUND A: AN ALARM GOING OFF.

ALDO:

(REPEAT THIS SPEECH UNTIL RON COMPLETES THE WORDS “ALDO, MESSAGE UNDERSTOOD” THEN STOP IMMEDIATELY. SPEAKING IN ROBOTIC VOICE.) Attention, Teriallia! Attention, Rontar! Navigational details accomplished. Ship has been prepared for landing. Awaiting landing orders. (CONTINUE UNTIL INTERRUPTED BY RON) Attention, Teriallia! Attention, Rontar! Navigational details accomplished. Ship has been pre...

MANUAL SOUND A: CUT ALARM.

RON:

(INTERRUPTING ALDO, AS THOUGH WAKING FROM SLEEP) Okay, okay, don't fry your circuits, Aldo, message understood. (YAWNING)

TERI:

Aldo, describe the terrain around the landing site?

ALDO:

Landing site is 3.23 kilometers from the perimeter of the selected habitation complex. Terrain is uneven and covered with vegetation. Level landing site is in a clearing at one of the lower points in the area. Atmospheric content: Nitrogen 75.03, Oxygen 21.96, Argon 1.92, Carbon Dioxide 0.01. Insignificant trace elements of Neon, Helium, Methane, Krypton, Hydrogen, Xenon, and Ozone.