

FENWICK



## **Skit to Stage Project Description Sheet**

***Skit to Stage Project:*** The emphasis of this project is interpretation, **performance (if you choose)**, and communication.

Students who select this One Read Reflection Project will create and submit a story script for a short stage production of a scene from *The Good Thief*. It is as if you have been commissioned to adapt the novel for the stage.

Read the book with an eye out for a scene that would be interesting for an audience, solidly present a moment in the book that would entertain and make sense to the audience. Assume that your audience has not read the book. We may have visitors, parents and high school teachers from another school who haven't read it yet. Your skit should be fun and interesting enough that they'll run right out to read *The Good Thief* for themselves.

The rule of thumb is that a skit is meant to be a short production with a clear beginning, middle and end. In this instance, you will be writing a skit for which the performance time is no less than three minutes and no more than five minutes. That usually means you will create a script that is no less than three pages and not more than six including stage directions.

Students choosing this option will pass in a finished project just like any of the other project options. The finished script will be submitted to the Homeroom Teacher on the first full day of school (09/05/18). The script will be graded and the grade submitted to the Religion Department for posting in the first quarter.

Be mindful as you create that your project must follow the principle of KISS, that is, make yours a Keep It Simple Skit. Because you will be writing as if the script will be performed, the set, costumes and length of lines should all be simple. Exceeding the parameters of the project guidelines does not earn extra points. As a matter of fact, it could detract from your score. The ability to create a script that meets the production constraints of the house is essential. In this case, more or less is not better or worse. Write to the stated purpose of a three to five minute production.

***Optional***, and we hope more than a few students will decide to take their scripts one step further, is the opportunity to actually produce the skit, live or as a video. Be prepared to perform, either live or on video, for a school-wide audience and for Hannah Tinti on the day she comes to speak to the school.

Hannah Tinti is coming to the school on Sept 26<sup>th</sup> to speak. Ms. Tropeano has generously offered to work with students in the month of September who wish to see their scripts come to life on stage. Ms. Tropeano and Ms. Smith will coordinate rehearsal time, simple costuming that helps achieve the desired effect, casting so script authors and friends can be in each other's productions and share resources.

( see other side )

**Reflection Activity & Assessment of Summer Reading: [The Good Thief by Hannah Tinti.](#)**

**Format is very important** The conventions of script writing are simple but important. For example, character names are always in CAPS and centered. Blocking (action) is indented and placed in parentheses. Setting and Dialogue are justified left. Use single space between your character's name and the first line of dialogue. If you need a pause in the action, you can indicate it by typing the word (BEAT), in parenthesis so it's obvious to the actor what you need him or her to do. Leave a lot of white space on each page. Remember, your script is a tool for an actor. a copy is usually provided for each person who highlights and marks up the individual copy in ways that help deliver the intention of the script writer.

*Here's a look at how you might adapt a scene in the book ( about & around pages 118 to 121)*

**Scene**

Mrs. Sands house in North Umbrage near the MCGINTY MOUSETRAP FACTORY AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANY.

**Time**

Early 1800's New England, just before dawn on a winter morning.

**SETTING:** Ren has just woken up and we are just outside a kitchen where Ren overhears Mrs. Sands and the giggling factory girls.

MRS. SANDS

(girls giggling)

GET YOUR FINGERS OUT OF THERE.

(Harelip is behind Ms. Sands  
waving a greasy piece of bacon)

HARELIP/ FACTORY GIRL

I DIDN'T TOUCH ANYTHING.

MRS. SANDS

(swipes harelip on the ear)

YOU'RE THE WORST OF THEM ALL.

The above is adapted from <http://www.writeratplay.com/2013/09/10/how-to-write-a-stage-play-12-tips-link/> and a sample script [https://ptfaculty.gordonstate.edu/lking/CPF\\_play\\_formatting2.pdf](https://ptfaculty.gordonstate.edu/lking/CPF_play_formatting2.pdf)

These links take you to more than you need in the way of examples and detail but sometimes it just helps to consider the bigger picture and the possibilities.

**Need help or more information? Ask a librarian** Ms. Smith is available via email at [dms@fenwick.org](mailto:dms@fenwick.org) so don't hesitate to reach out. The O'Rourke Library and Information Center is on the 3rd floor on the auditorium side of the school.