

## Chapter 9

## Magic on The Screen

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Then the magic show begins. You are carried away on the magic carpet; carried away to the fairyland where heroines are beautiful, heroes brave, and villains devilish. The spell is broken when the images disappear from the screen and the lights are switched on in the cinema hall. How does it all happen ?

Science is the magician that makes the pictures move on the silver screen. Actually the pictures do not move at all, they only appear to be moving. They are a chain of unmoving images on a transparent film; in colour, or black and white. The actual pictures are the size of a postage stamp but are enlarged a hundred times when they are projected<sup>2</sup> with a powerful beam of light from the cinema operator's cabin. The magic happens when the principles of physics and chemistry are added to the old art of story telling.

Haven't you sat in front of a lamp, lantern or fire, and held up your hand to cast shadows in the shape of a rabbit or a bird ? These shadows become bigger or smaller if you hold your hand nearer or farther away the light. Well, childish shadow play was the beginning of the cinema industry.

Have you watched your little brother making pictures of houses and cats with his crayons ? The little boy is doing exactly what Walt Disney, the maker of the world's greatest cartoon films, did to entertain millions of children of all ages, all over the world!

Have you taken part in a school drama ? The stage is like the studio where films are made and actors and actresses play their parts.

Do you or one of your friends possess a camera ? The person with the camera is exactly like the cameraman or even the director of a film.

Do you read comics where the story is told in sixteen, twenty or twenty-four pictures ? In the same way, a cinema story is divided into many scenes, shots and frames. The comic costs a few rupees; the making of a film costs millions of rupees.

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**Teacher's Note:** Ask the children to tell about the kinds of films they like.

Before a film is produced, the script is written. The person who thinks up the story is called the storywriter. The storywriter gives the story to the producer and the director, and they decide the best way to make it interesting. They in turn give it to the screenplay writer, who expands the story as it will appear on the screen. He divides it into sets and scenes and prepares the screenplay. The screenplay is like a play, written to suit the screen: it shows what the order of scenes will be, which character will appear, and what he will do.

After the screenplay is approved by the director, it is given to the dialogue writer. In India, the dialogue writer, especially in Hindi films, plays a very important role. He uses various dialects<sup>3</sup> for different kinds of films, and manages to make the beauty and power of language attractive to the cinemagoers. For many, the dialogue in films is the only form of literature with which they come in contact.

Songs are important in most Indian films. The lyric writer<sup>4</sup> and the music director compose the words and music of songs before the actual shooting of the song and dance scenes.

It is only after all this has been done that a director is ready to film scenes, which may be shot indoors in a studio or house, or on outdoor locations<sup>5</sup>.

—K.A. Abbas





## Words to Learn

dimmed  
screenplay

fairyland  
dialect

enlarged  
director

projected  
compose

## Skill Test

### WORK OUT

Answer the following questions :

- How is the work of a story writer different from that of a scriptwriter ?  
.....
- Who steps in after the scriptwriter has done his/her work ? What does this person do ?  
.....
- Why do you think that the dialogue writer's work is very important ?  
.....
- Which person makes the most important decisions about the film ?  
.....

### GRAMMAR

Look at these sentences :

*Which* principle is applied to the art of storytelling ?

*Whose* drawing are compared to Walt Disney's cartoons ?

*Whose* and *which* are pronouns that ask questions, and are therefore called interrogative pronouns .

Which is used in questions when we want to ask somebody to be exact about one or more people or things from a limited number.

Example : *Which* country is the largest producer of films ?

Whose is used in questions when we want to ask whom something belongs.

Example : Whose book is this /

Whose bags are these ?

**1. Fill in the blanks with which or whose.**

..... book are you reading ?

I'm reading about a girl ..... family had to hide in an attic during the war.

..... war was that ?

The Second World War.

Who is the author ?

The girl and the author are one and the same—Anne Frank.

..... book is it ? Is it yours ?

No, it's not mine. It is Rohan's; the boy ..... bicycle I repaired.

He has many such interesting books.

I want to read an interesting book too. .... is the way to Rohan's house ?

**VOCABULARY****A. Look at these phrases and their meanings.**

*carry on*

continue doing something

*carry out*

to do something as required

*carry (something) off*

to win something

*get carried away*

become very excited or lose control of your feelings

**B. Fill in the blanks with the right expression from the list above. Make changes in the expression where necessary.**

(a) Even though our leader is gone we must ..... the good work she started.

(b) The doctor said that she still had to ..... some tests on the patient.

(c) He got quite ..... after he won the prize and started crying.

(d) Tendulkar has often ..... the Man-of-the-Match award.

(e) Mother asked us to ..... working while she made dinner.

**COMPOSITION**

**Which is your favourite film ? Write two paragraphs about it. Include the following points :**

name of the film

what kind of film it is... cartoon/comedy/drama/adventure/historical

what it is about

who the actors are

why you like this film the most