BUILD-A-PLAY
YOUR OPENING SCENE

You have created your play’s **CHARACTERS, SETTING** and **DRAMATIC ACTION OUTLINE** and **YOU HAVE LEARNED HOW TO WRITE DIALOGUE** on the page. You have written the WHO, WHERE, WHAT and HOW of your story. Now, it’s time to **CREATE YOUR OPENING SCENE.**

You have all of the elements in line now to write your play—scene by scene. So, **TODAY,** we are going to write your **OPENING SCENE.**

On the next page, there are several key instructions to help you write the first scene of your play. In addition, I am adding some **INGREDIENTS** that must be included in your Opening Scene. Use this **INGREDIENT LIST** to stretch your imagination or to help you when you might get stuck on what to write. Strive to include ALL the ingredients on the list.

You may write your scene by hand on paper, or on a computer or tablet. Remember to follow the **DRAMATIC WRITING FORMAT** we learned on **DAY 5.**

Use your imagination and have fun!

**NEXT TIME:** We will **WRITE SCENE TWO** of your **PLAY.**
WRITING YOUR OPENING SCENE

1) Pull out your DRAMATIC ACTION OUTLINE, so you can refer to BOTH your DRAMATIC QUESTION and WHAT HAPPENS IN YOUR OPENING SCENE.

2) Pull out the DIALOGUE SAMPLE and DIALOGUE PRACTICE, so you can refer to how your scene is written on the page.

3) REMEMBER, your opening scene should show what the dramatic question of your play is. The dramatic question needs to be raised in your play’s opening scene (but it isn’t answered until your final scene.)

4) START YOUR SCENE with the STAGE DIRECTION – LIGHTS UP. Then, tell us in the Stage Directions WHERE we are, WHEN we are, and WHO is there. THEN, WRITE YOUR SCENE through dialogue to show us WHAT HAPPENS in the scene. Your scene is not done until you have written WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN in the scene (according to your DRAMATIC ACTION OUTLINE.)

5) When your scene is done, END IT WITH the STAGE DIRECTION – LIGHTS DOWN.

6) REMEMBER to write SCENE ONE at the beginning of your scene (refer to the DIALOGUE EXAMPLE SHEET) and make sure you also NUMBER your pages. This will make your writing easier as you write more and more scenes.

7) USE THE LIST OF INGREDIENTS IN YOUR SCENE – Make sure you use everything on the list.

LIST OF INGREDIENTS:

1) A color
2) An emotion
3) A gesture
4) A repeated word
5) A tool of some kind (a pencil, a hammer, a fork – all tools)
6) A sound on stage
7) A question
8) A fact about the known universe
9) An interruption
10) A worry