

WB
WARNER BROS.
STUDIO TOUR
LONDON

THE
MAKING OF
Harry Potter

SCREENPLAY STORIES

Story Ideas

Story ideas can come from anywhere. The idea of a boy going to wizarding school came to J.K. Rowling whilst she was on a four-hour train journey between Manchester and London. She didn't even have a pen to write her ideas down at the time, so she kept the ideas in her head and wrote them down as soon as she could that evening. This is how her first book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was born!

Rowling herself always knew that she wanted to be a writer. She wrote her first book about her toy rabbit (called 'Rabbit') at aged six. She was a book worm and loved to read and write stories all the time. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was published in 1997, then adapted into a movie in 2001.

Screenplay example

129 EXTERNAL, NIGHT, A FOREST

A wolf howls in the distance.

MRS RABBIT

We must get home soon - the children are alone!

MR RABBIT

Quick, let's run through the woodlands, we'll be well hidden there.

130 INTERNAL, THE RABBIT HOLE

Danny and Jane Rabbit huddle together, Jane is holding a small candle.

DANNY RABBIT

Where ARE they?!

JANE RABBIT

Don't worry, they'll be home soon. They said they would be back before dawn.

DANNY RABBIT

Why did they have to go at all? I hate being alone without them.

JANE RABBIT

You're not alone, you've got me.

SHE TWITCHES HER NOSE AND GIVES DANNY A LOVING NUDGE.

SUDDENLY, THEIR EARS PRICK UP AS THEY HEAR A LOUD CRACK. THE CANDLE FLAME GOES OUT.

A BLINDING LIGHT FLOODS THE RABBIT HOLE.

(CONTINUED)

Scene heading, including time of day and location

Character name & dialogue indented

Instructions for the Prop department

Instructions for the actors

Instructions for the Sound Department / Foley artists

Instructions for the Special Effects Department

Always say if your Screenplay Script goes onto another page

Screenplays

Before a book can be made into a film, a **screenplay** needs to be written. To the left, you can see an example of what a screenplay looks like. Notice that it is written in a font called *courier new* – this is the standard font for screenplays.

The screenwriter for *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* was Steve Kloves and he worked closely with J.K. Rowling to take the story ideas, themes and characters and adapt them for the big screen.



ACTIVITY

Screenplay Story Cubes

You are going to come up with your own story idea for a movie using the story cubes.

Story cubes are dice that you can roll to give you ideas for stories.

Print off the story cubes and **stick** them together to make dice.

There are four cubes in total to help you decide on the following areas:

- ♦ Main character
 - ♦ Setting
 - ♦ Time period
 - ♦ Genre

These are four of the key areas that screenwriters will take into consideration when they are creating their stories.

Roll each die and use the word on the side facing upwards to start building your screenplay story.

Where will your
story be set and
what time period?

Who will your
main character be?

What type of
story (or genre)
will you tell?

Write down your ideas into a story, then create your own screenplay.

This is an activity for you to enjoy at home, we won't be accepting or reviewing screenplays, but we really hope you're enjoying learning more about the filmmaking magic of the Harry Potter film series!



STORY CUBE

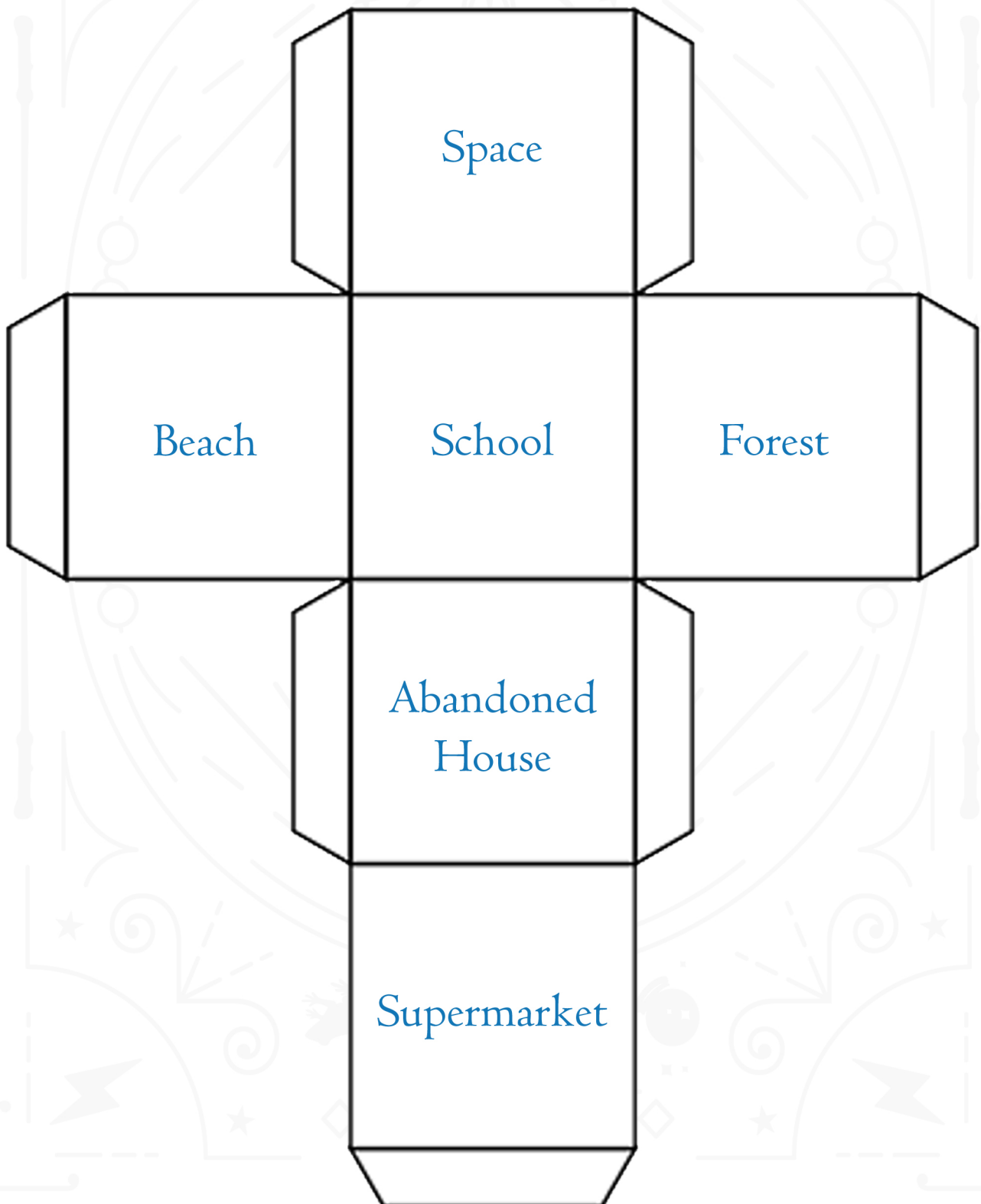
Characters





STORY CUBE

Settings

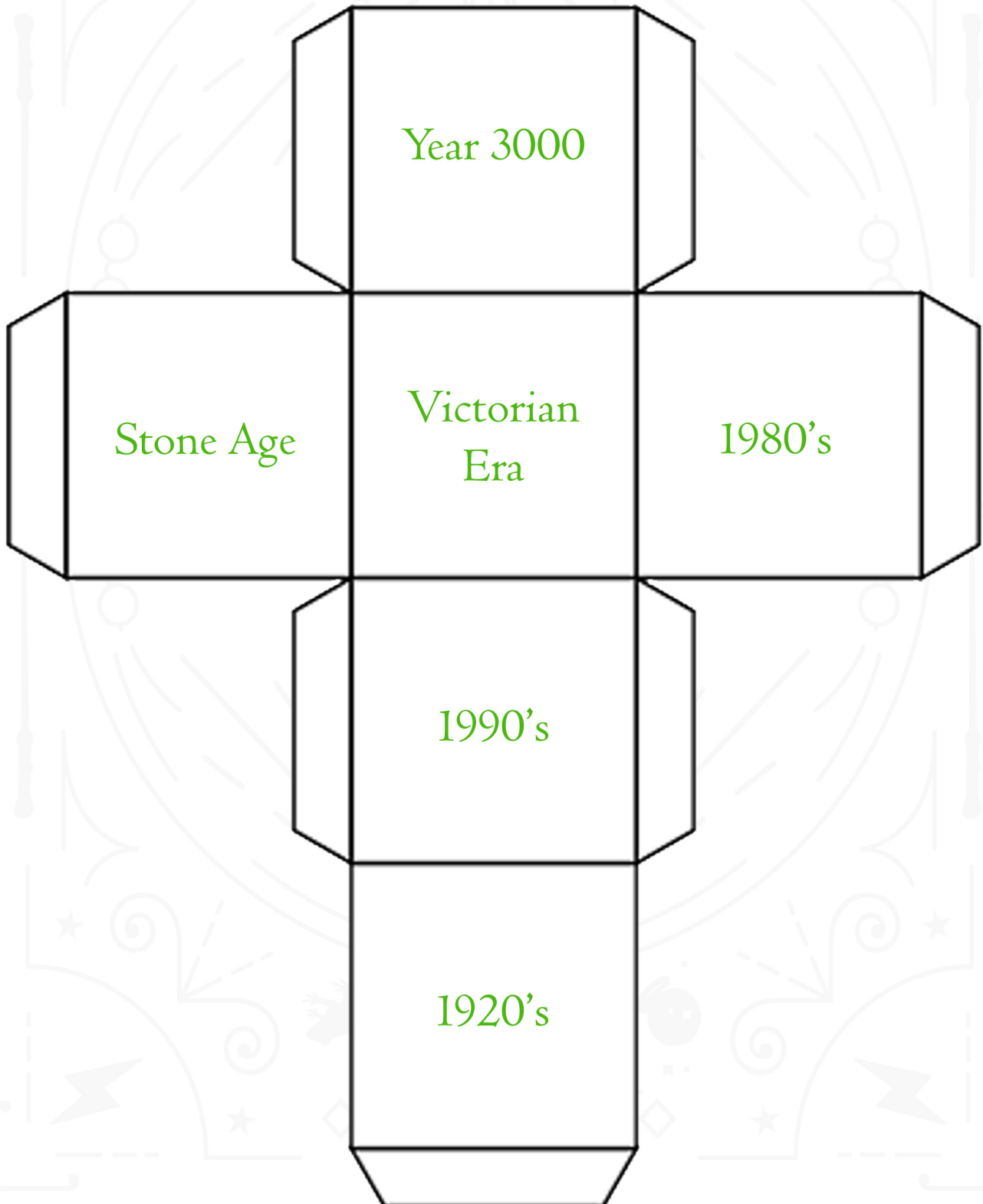


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Time Period





STORY CUBE
Genre

