

# Writing for the Screen 9-11

Here's our examples of a **Logline**, **Paragraph** and **Treatment**. Feel free to look over these as a guide when writing your own.

## Logline Example

INCITING INCIDENT  
PROTAGONIST  
SETTING  
STAKES  
PLOT QUESTION

When her selfie goes viral, a phone-obsessed student is teleported 500 years into the past. Finding herself in a world without instagram followers or internet, she must race against time to make it home.

## Paragraph Example

PROTAGONIST  
INCITING INCIDENT  
FIRST ACT TURN  
SETTING  
ADDITIONAL CHARACTERS (could be an antagonist or sidekick in this case)  
OBSTACLES & STAKES  
HINT AT WORST MOMENT  
CLIMAX  
PLOT QUESTION  
CHARACTER QUESTION

15 year old phone-obsessed Zara takes a selfie in front of an old painting at the art gallery. After getting 500 likes on instagram, she is teleported to a small European town 500 years into the past. In 1520, She befriends Nellie, an orphan girl who helps her find a way. A visit to the town fortune teller reveals that the painting in Zara's selfie was cursed by a local artist and might be the key to Zara's passage home. Suspicions around Zara and her background grow in the town and she is suspected of witchcraft. Zara finds the meaning of true friendship as Nellie helps her race against time, to get back to 2020.

## Treatment Example

SET UP  
I've established the world and the protagonist, including her WANT

INCITING INCIDENT

FIRST ACT TURN

15 year old Zara is on a school excursion at the art gallery with her class, but her eyes are glued to her phone. The guide has instructed there be no photos, but Zara, seeking notoriety from her online followers decides to break the rules.

Zara breaks from the group and takes a selfie in front of an artwork. She's pleased with her photo, so she decides to post it on instagram. The likes start going up and up. Suddenly, there is a flash and Zara is transported somewhere strange.

Obstacles for protagonist

Zara finds herself in an unfamiliar place, confused and disorientated. She is taken in by a girl the same age as her, Nellie, who gives her food and shelter. Nellie tells her that it's the year 1520...that's 500 years ago. Zara is in denial and doesn't appreciate Nellie's hospitality. Zara takes out her phone to show Nellie but it won't turn on.

Nellie, wanting to find answers for this strange occurrence, believes they can seek help from the town Fortune Teller and takes Zara into town. In the town, people stare and are suspicious as she tries to blend in.

Zara describes her last movements before the time travel. The Fortune Teller knows a story of a local artist who was rumoured to have cursed their own paintings and believes there is a connection to Zara's selfie.

Whilst leaving the fortune teller, Zara's phone lights up and the Fortune Teller notices it.

MIDPOINT  
new information and challenges

Zara believes her phone might just get her home, but the battery is running down. She manages to show Nellie the selfie before she runs to the top of a hill in a naive effort to get phone reception.

Escalating obstacles for protagonist

The Fortune Teller from town follows her there and sees her waving the strange device around. She rushes back and warns the townspeople that Zara might be a supernatural being or capable of witchcraft. Meanwhile, Nellie goes on a quest to find the cursed painting that Zara took a selfie with.

WORST MOMENT  
and she's confronted with her FEAR

Zara is captured by the townspeople and her phone taken by the Fortune Teller. Zara realises the Fortune Teller may not be who she seemed. Zara loses what might be her only way back to the future. She is lonely and trapped.

A glimmer of hope

Meanwhile, Nellie finds the painting and has an idea of how to get Zara home.

She helps Zara escape and takes her to the painting. Zara is humbled by Nellie's kindness. Zara and Nellie make it to the painting but to their surprise, the Fortune Teller is waiting, hoping to use Zara's phone to take herself to the future instead. Zara reaches for her phone but it's starting to glitch. Zara struggles with the Fortune Teller to take the phone. There's a flash, and Zara finds herself back in the art gallery in 2020, assuming Nellie hasn't made it.

CLIMAX

The PLOT question is answered

Suddenly, Nellie appears, after photobombing the selfie at the last minute. Zara takes in the painting and everything around her, alongside her new friend.

RESOLUTION

The CHARACTER question is answered