











## Exploring Genres

Genre is the word used to describe categories or types of films.

There are also different genres of books and plays.

Each genre has a set of conventions (or rules) that dictates character roles, settings, costumes and props and stories.

Here is a list of popular film genres and some of the conventions that are associated with them:

	Scenarios 	Settings 	Characters 
 <b>Action or Adventure</b>	Battles, escapes, natural disasters.	Deserts, jungles, exotic locations.	Spies, superheroes, explorers.
 <b>Science fiction</b>	Alien abductions, robots vs humans, the future.	Other planets, alternate dimensions, the moon, outer space.	Mad scientists, monsters, aliens.
 <b>Romance</b>	Relationships, break ups and make ups, ending in death or marriage.	Familiar or historical settings.	Princesses, peasants, knights or even just 'ordinary people'.
 <b>Horror</b>	Play on audiences' worst fears, for example spiders, darkness, ghosts.	Cemeteries, haunted houses, creepy forest.	Zombies, monsters vs 'ordinary people'.
 <b>Fantasy</b>	Improbable quests, battle of good vs evil.	Fantasy worlds, fictional locations.	Elves, dwarves, wizards, magicians.



## Activity: Five shot genre challenge

### FOR THIS GAME YOU WILL NEED:

- A camera/tablet/smart phone
- **Genre choices sheet** on page 4 or paper and pens to make your own
- Scissors
- Storyboard Template or a large sheet of paper to create a storyboard
- Groups of 3-5 people.

### How to play the game

- Cut up the **Genre choices sheet** and fold and place the genres, characters and objects into three different containers. If you do not have a printer, copy the lists onto pieces of paper or sticky notes.
- Each group should now pick a genre, character and object, and keep it to themselves, and find a place away from other groups to plan a five shot film that is an example of the genre and includes the character and object.
- Set a time limit for planning and creating the film using the **Storyboard Template** and your filmmaking equipment.
- Groups should work together to film the shots in order, so that no additional editing is needed.
- At the end of the time limit, swap devices or play the films on the screen or board. Can you guess which genre each group was working with?



## Activity: Mixing genres

### FOR THIS GAME YOU WILL NEED:

- A camera/tablet/smartphone
- **Genre conventions sheet** on page 4 or paper and pens to make your own
- Scissors
- Storyboard sheet or a large sheet of paper
- to create a storyboard
- Camera shots sheet
- Editing software, eg iMovie, Windows Movie Maker (optional)
- Groups of 3-5 people.

### How to play the game

- Cut out the pieces on the **Genre conventions sheet**. Fold and place the Genre, Scenario, Setting and Character cards into four separate containers. If you do not have a printer, copy the lists on pieces of paper or sticky notes.
- Each group can now select one piece of paper from each container, so that they have a genre, scenario, setting and characters.
- Each group should brainstorm ideas to create a short film based on the four choices:
  - How will you communicate the scenario and setting of the film with your audience?
  - What props and costumes could you use?
  - How can you use dialogue to help the audience identify the genre?
- Which camera angles and movements should you use?
- Use the Storyboard Template to sketch six shots and movements based on the ideas developed from the brainstorm.
- Once complete, use your camera, tablet or smart phone to shoot the scenes from the storyboard, shooting no more than 10 seconds of film per shot.
- When you have captured your six shots, you are ready to share this with the other groups. The challenge for them is to guess the hybrid or cross- genre of your film.

If you have access to iMovie, Windows Movie Maker or similar editing software, set a time limit for groups to edit their films, adding titles, music and effects, and editing the footage to make the genre even clearer.

# Genre conventions sheet

## Genre



Action and adventure

## Scenarios



Battles, escapes or natural disasters

## Settings



Deserts, jungles or exotic locations

## Characters



Spies, superheroes or explorers

## Genre



Science fiction

## Scenarios



Alien abductions or robots vs humans

## Settings



Planets, alternate dimensions, the moon or outer space

## Characters



Mad scientists, monsters or aliens

## Genre



Romance

## Scenarios



Relationships, break ups and make ups or end in death or marriage

## Settings



Familiar or historical settings

## Characters



Princesses, peasants, knights or just 'ordinary people'

## Genre



Horror

## Scenarios



Play on audiences' worst fears, eg spiders, darkness or ghosts

## Settings



Cemeteries, haunted houses or creepy forest

## Characters



Zombies, monsters vs 'ordinary people'

## Genre



Fantasy

## Scenarios



Improbable quests or battle of good vs evil

## Settings



Fantasy worlds or fictional locations

## Characters



Elves, dwarves, wizards or magicians





## Activity: Five shot genre challenge choices

**Doris, an elderly lady  
who loves travelling**

(Character)

**Horror**

(Genre)

**A Balloon**

(Object)

**Jamie, a boy who loves  
reading**

(Character)

**Comedy**

(Genre)

**A Guitar**

(Object)

**Kai, a boy who loves  
sport**

(Character)

**Western**

(Genre)

**An iPad**

(Object)

**Nancy, a girl who loves  
maths**

(Character)

**Musical**

(Genre)

**A Banana**

(Object)

**Pixie, a very clever cat**

(Character)

**Action**

(Genre)

**A Paintbrush**

(Object)

**Mrs Smith, everyone's  
favourite teacher**

(Character)

**Adventure**

(Genre)

**A Dice**

(Object)

**Ben, a boy who is very  
shy**

(Character)

**Horror**

(Genre)

**A Coin**

(Object)