

Logline: “The Boy Who Can Talk to Cats” is a fantasy cartoon about a young boy, who lives with his sick grandmother and his single mom. After the boy discovers he has the ability to talk to cats, he learns his grandma is in grave danger. The boy must navigate the world of cats in order to save his family.

Characters: The story follows the main characters of Felix, a young boy handling a lot of responsibility to be independent, his ill grandmother, Dorothea, his single-mom, Bridget, and the long haired tabby cat, Angel, that once belonged to the boy’s grandmother. Cali, the spunky calico cat, and Tom, the angry tomcat, are supporting characters.

Treatment:

The story revolves around Felix, his family, and the world of cats.

The opening scene shows Felix getting off of the school bus. The cats are teased as they sit at the edge of the forest. Then we establish his home life by entering his grandmother’s house, where he now lives with her and his mom. We see through the setting of the living room, why he lives here and establish that his grandma is ill.

The first act establishes Felix’s usual world. We see how independent he is. He has grown used to his grandmother’s illness. He does not understand the gravity of her illness, but understands that his mother’s time is dedicated to taking care of her, so he is fine helping out and doing things himself.

We see a quick montage of an entire day to further set up his usual world. We see him at home and at school.

We then get backstory as to why the cats are outside:

BRIDGET

No, honey. We’ve talked about this. You know the cats are bad for grandma’s health. Grandma is really sick.

FELIX

(pleading)

She’ll feel better soon. And, Angel will cheer her up! She’s grandma’s cat. And, this was her house first. We can’t just keep her out.

BRIDGET

(strict)

Yes, we can. It's better for grandma. And, cats are animals. They can survive outside. It's where they belong.

Felix then goes outside and is introduced to the strange world. He meets his mentor, Angel. But, he refuses the call quite literally:

ANGEL
Hey! Hello?

ANGEL
Over here!

ANGEL
Yeah, over here! Can you come over here a second?

FELIX
You're talking?! What's going on? Is this a dream?

ANGEL
No, you're awake. Please, calm down. I can explain everything. May I speak to you somewhere more private?

FELIX
Wha- What?

ANGEL
(calmly)
Please, Felix. I need your help. In fact, we can help each other. Come with me?

FELIX
(screaming)
Wha- No! Mom! Mom! Mom!!!

BRIDGET
Hey, hey. What's the matter?

Then we see him with his family, in shock from speaking with cats.
Felix then goes to bed, where Angel comes to him again. She warns him of the serious nature of his grandmother's condition. He sets off with her to find the solution.

Felix goes through the forest and a magical gate to enter the secret world of cats. We meet Cali along the way. Felix shrinks.

Angel and Felix head to the castle. He passes the barrier of the statue and gets the water to save his grandmother. They are stopped by the mysterious Tom. Felix runs off by himself to get to his grandmother. He picks up Cali and goes to Dorothea. Almost saving her.

It seems that she is dead, but Angel meets Felix at her grave to tell him that Dorothea has been reincarnated as a cat.

The final scene reveals this twist and shows a quirky, happy family.

Reflective Essay:

This essay is a reflective account of my experience in screenwriting, my writing process, my final screenplay project and treatment. I don't really know if my writing had a process. In writing it, I felt like a very novice writer. I tried very hard on the screenplay, but I wish I had more time. This was my first experience trying to write a beginning, middle, and end in a screenplay. And, only my fourth or fifth attempt in my entire writing career.

I learned a lot from this class. I really appreciated our lessons on narrative structure. I think that the hero's journey and basic elements of plot can apply to all writing, and I'm glad we covered that first. In the future I hope to execute those teachings more correctly. Every lesson had a purpose. I really felt that I was absorbing the techniques of screenwriting. Despite this, I was still anxious and unsure when it came to the final project. I felt that I understood the basics of screenwriting, but was unsure how to implement them and create an interesting story. I appreciate that we workshopped our ideas in class, though. For a while, I was stuck between two very different ideas for what to write for my screenplay. In the end, I went for the one that came to me the easiest. However, this was still very difficult. I did not have a clear idea for each act or scene before I began writing my screenplay.

"The Boy Who Can Talk To Cats" was just a vision of my central characters, themes, and the overall idea of the beginning and end. Sitting down and actually writing came as a challenge. Even the title was something that I couldn't come up with by myself. With the pressure of this being the one big final assignment, I was nervous to commit anything to paper. I wish that I had not been afraid. I wish that I had begun sooner, and left myself time to revise. In the end, I produced a rough estimate of what I was picturing in my head. But, this was my first real attempt at writing a screenplay or script, so I hope it is okay when keeping that in mind. As for the treatment, I was even more out of my depth. I had never even heard of a treatment before taking this class. In the end, I tried to mix all of the styles that were given as examples on the website you referred me to. I do not know how successful that was.

Overall, I am very happy that I took this module, but I wish it lasted the same length as classes that I am used to from America. I don't want my work to feel like a reflection of your teaching skill. I did my best, but I underestimated how much time these assignments would take and overestimated how much time I had left. I hope my work is acceptable.