

Talk a Lot

Books

Role Plays

1. "I'm your biggest fan!"

Place: The ground floor of a large bookstore in the centre of town
Time: 4.05 pm
Characters: A famous author and his / her biggest fan
Situation: Your favourite author is in town doing a book signing. You love their books and have been queueing outside the bookstore for four days to be the first person to meet the author. Finally, the famous author arrives...

Scenes:

- i) Tell them what it means to you to meet them after so many years. Ask them to sign your book, with the following dedication: "To Auntie Rosemary – all the best, from..." You leave ecstatic that you have met your idol
- ii) After a few minutes, you go back to complain that the author has spelt "Rosemary" wrong. Also the dedication is not clear: "all the best" looks more like "all the rest". You want the author to give you a new copy of their book, because yours is "ruined". The author obliges reluctantly
- iii) A few hours later, you return to find that the queue has gone and the author is alone. You watch in surprise as the author walks around the store laughing, defacing books written by rival authors. What do you do?

If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:

- a) *Your Auntie Rosemary, who is also a big fan of the author*
- b) *The author's PA (Personal Assistant), who hates talking to fans*

2. "Fishing in Hungary"

Place: A public library in a small town
Time: 8.50 pm
Characters: You are a student, and the other person is a librarian
Situation: You need to take out some books for your project. You must have them now. The library closes soon and the librarian wants to get home, after a fourteen-hour shift. Earlier today the librarian was told off for being rude to customers

Scenes:

- i) You want to borrow "Fishing in Hungary", by either Emil Stanovic, Imel Stonavic, or Amel Stinivac – you can't remember the name of the author. The librarian checks on the computer and goes to get the right book
- ii) Next, you need "The Colour Blue", by either Clair LeClerc, or Clark LeClerc – again you can't remember the name. The librarian tries to be patient
- iii) Finally, you need "Filipe's World of Flying", by either Filipe Gonzales Hernandez, Hernando Gonzales Filipe, or Gonzalo Hernando Filipez – you're not sure which is right. At this, the librarian may start to lose their patience...

If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:

- a) *The librarian's manager, who listens to check that they are being polite*
- b) *Another customer, who is even more demanding*

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Role Play Extensions

Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Books":

Books

1. You are jealous of your talented friend, who is always doing impressive things, and winning praise from people. They have recently written a play, and they email it to you, asking you to spell-check it for them, and tell them what you think of it. You print out the play and read it quickly. When you realise that it is very good, you secretly send it to several important literary agents – telling them that *you* wrote it. After a few months the play is accepted by an agent, and you quickly discover that a famous theatre producer is planning to put it on in London's West End. You will get paid a lot of money! You feel pleased, but also a little guilty. There will be a lot of publicity for the play, because some big-name actors have signed up to play the lead roles, and your friend is bound to find out that it's their play. What do you do? Do you tell your friend what has happened – and try to patch up your friendship – or do you keep the money and attempt to keep your friend away from all of the publicity?

2. You are a minor character in a long, action-packed novel, that is currently being written by a mediocre, but successful, novelist. One day you find a way to burst out of the novel and you meet the novelist. First you have to prove to the novelist that you are real, and not a figment of their imagination. Next, you demand more dialogue in the novel, and a bigger role. The novelist doesn't want to change their story outline, but you threaten to run away and not return to the novel, so they agree to give you more to do. You go back to the novel reluctantly, but quickly reappear to make a suggestion that the novelist involves you in a stormy romance with the novel's leading lady. Again, the novelist doesn't want to alter their plot, but your whining wins the day, and you get what you want. However, after you've returned to the novel, it becomes clear that the novelist is deliberately changing the plot to make sure that you're killed in a steamroller accident – perhaps because you have been so demanding. For a third time, you burst out of the novel and, finding the novelist fast asleep at their desk, you rewrite the ending of the novel so that you and the heroine can live happily ever after!