

BECAUSE  
OF THEM  
WE CAN

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

# BECAUSE OF SIDNEY POITIER & CICELY TYSON

AGES 5-8

BOTWC Minis posing as  
Sidney Poitier &  
Cicely Tyson

GOALS ON THE ROAD  
TO ACHIEVEMENT CANNOT  
BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT  
DISCIPLINE AND CONSISTENCY.

DENZEL WASHINGTON

# THE SCENES OF THEIR LIVES

Instructions: Read each of the “scenes” from the lives of Sidney Poitier and Cicely Tyson, which have important details about their lives. Use the chart to write down three things that were alike in their lives and three things that were different.



## SIDNEY POITIER

**Scene 1:** Poitier was born in the US but he grew up in the Bahamas. At age 12 he left school to help support his family. As a teenager he came back to the US and **enlisted** in the army.

**Scene 2:** After leaving the army he went to New York wanted to try for an **audition**. The **director** was very mean to him because of the way he talked and because he was not very good at reading. He took it as a challenge and decided to become an actor just to prove him wrong. He worked hard and even took a cleaning job for no pay so he could take acting classes.

**Scene 3:** Sidney got his first start when another actor, Harry Belafonte, was unable to appear in a play and Sidney took his place. Because of that he was seen and offered a small role. He didn't do the best on his first night but he was **charming**. His first film in 1950 was *No Way Out*. He did many roles in his life, but he refused to take roles that would show Black people in a bad way.

## CICELY TYSON

**Scene 1:** Tyson was born on December 8th in New York. Her parents were also from a Caribbean **island**. She was very involved in the church and even played piano in church.

**Scene 2:** After graduating from high school she went on to work at the Red Cross. Tyson's friend told her she should try modeling. She took their advice and had some success. She then starting taking acting classes. Her first **role** was on a show called *Frontier* on NBC in 1951.



**Scene 3:** Tyson did many plays and shows. She got into movies with the Harry Belafonte film called *Odds Against Tomorrow*. She was very careful about her roles. She wanted to make sure that her roles were positive. She would not play certain roles of Black women, such as drug addicts or maids. She had a very long acting career and was even taking roles into her 80s,

# WHAT'S IN COMMON?

## SIDNEY POITIER

**Scene 4:** Sidney Poitier had many achievements on and off the screen. He was the first Black actor to win an **Oscar** in 1964. He had so much success up until he died in January 2022 at 94 years old.

## CICELY TYSON

**Scene 4:** Cicely Tyson inspired so many people. She was nominated for an Oscar in 1973. She had a long life of achievements. She died at 96 years old in January 2021.

## FACTS ABOUT SIDNEY POITIER

1.

2.

3.



## FACTS ABOUT CICELY TYSON

1.

2.

3.



## WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

1.

2.

3.

# SCRIPT YOUR SCENE

You have probably seen some movies. There is a lot of work that goes into them. The work is not just for the actors – there is a lot of work that goes into it even before the actors get involved. To get a movie started there is someone with an idea that writes a script. They create scenes that that come together to form finished movies. You will follow the steps below so you can create your own movie scene.

Here are the steps people usually take when they are writing a script. Use this if you need it.

**Step 1:** Find out where you want your scene and write a description of it.

**Step 2:** Determine what characters will be at your scene.

**Step 3:** Write your dialogue (which is the characters talking.) What will they say to each other? What they say is really important, as it shows who they are and makes the scene come alive.

*Instructions: You will read the start of a scene and then finish it to add your own ideas about how the story should go!*

See the example below using this prompt: **An alien has crash-landed in the playground.**

*It was an early morning before school started. There is a kid sitting on the bench alone at a wooden table. His friends are at the playground on the swings and slides. They are running around laughing and yelling, not paying attention to anything. Suddenly the wind starts to pick up and there is a huge round shape that is right beside the playground. No one seems to notice but the shape lands and the kid at the table sees that it's a spaceship.*

**Kid:** Are y'all seeing this?

*He turns to look at his friends but they are still playing at the playground as if nothing is happening*

**Kid:** Heyyy, Christa look at this.

*Christa walks toward him but she looks around like she is surprised.*

**Christa:** I don't see anything. Are you okay? First you were sitting alone?

*The Alien is now out of the ship and walking towards the kid. He walks straight up to Christa*

**Kid:** Christa!

**Christa:** What? You really need to see the nurse

*The kid finally realizes that no one else can see the alien. He turns and looks at the kid now.*

**Alien:** Justin. We came for you...

# WRITE YOUR SCRIPT!

Now it's your turn! Finish the script below:

Handwriting practice lines for writing a script. The page contains 18 sets of horizontal lines, each consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. A large, faint watermark of the Oscar statuette is visible in the background.



## GLOSSARY

**Enlisted** - serving in the armed forces in a rank below the rank of officers.

**Island** - an area of land that is surrounded by water.

**Audition** - a short performance to show the talents of someone (such as an actor or a musician) who is being considered for a role in a play, a position in an orchestra, etc.

**Director** - a person who directs a play, movie, etc.

**Role** - the character played by an actor.

**Charming** - very pleasing or appealing.

**Oscars** - the name used for an award given by part of the U.S. film industry to the best actors, directors, etc., of the year.



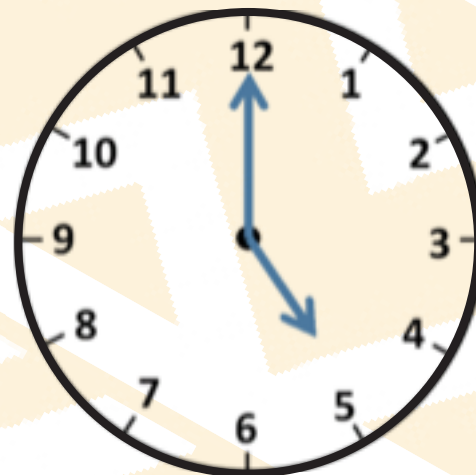
# TIME FOR A SCENE

Instructions: Look at the clocks below and write what time it is. After you write your answers, think about how time would be important while writing scripts and when making movies.

1.



2.



3.



4.



9:30

ANSWER KEY: (1.) 3:00 (2.) 5:00 (3.) 6:00 (4.) Small hand should be on the 9 and large hand on the 6

## TAKE THE PLEDGE

**I WILL HONOR**  
THE SACRIFICES OF  
MY ANCESTORS.

**I WILL BELIEVE**  
IN ME.

**I WILL PURSUE**  
MY DREAMS.

**I WILL HELP**  
OTHERS ALONG  
THE WAY.