

Try this fun beach activity to support your child's literacy development in grades 6 through 8!

Beach/Ocean Short Films

Many movies have used the beach as a backdrop for the action. Encourage your child to create their next masterpiece as a short film that must be set at the beach/ocean.

MATERIALS:

For this activity, you will need paper and pen/pencil or computer/phone/tablet (optional: recording device/phone to make the film).

DIRECTIONS:

1. Challenge your child to write a script for a short film (about 5 minutes) that could only happen at the beach/ocean.
 - Examples of films that could only be set at the beach/ocean are *Jaws*, *Castaway*, *The Black Stallion*, and *The Little Mermaid*.
2. Remind your child that even short films have a main character who wants something and faces obstacles to get it. The script will need a set-up, conflict, and resolution.
3. As a general rule, one page translates to one minute on screen, so the script will probably be about five pages, including character and setting description, action, and dialogue.
4. *Extend*: If you have time and a recording device (e.g., mobile phone), encourage your child to make the film.
5. (*Optional*): If your child prefers, this activity can be done as a short story writing exercise, rather than a script. Provide some genres to help generate ideas for a story: sci-fi, comedy, horror, etc.