

Writing Sample 01 by Scott Selden

STRANGER THINGS " CHAPTER NINE: 1984 " teleplay

Synopsis

During the first season's finale (titled Chapter Eight) young friends Mike Wheeler, Lucas Sinclair, and Dustin Henderson rescue their fourth Will Byers from a nightmarish alternate dimension- at the expense of a young psychic named Eleven trained by local HAL Laboratories. A week of terrifying violence ends with her disappearance, a monster's destruction, and dozens dead. The horror subsides.

This is the next sequential chapter (Chapter Nine) as the opening episode of a second season. Six months have passed without major incident and now it's exam week on the eve of summer. While the boys monitor potential portal sites in the search for Eleven, new enemies and allies emerge.

A seasonal meteor shower approaches and the town of Hawkins celebrates.

Sample contents

The boys hike to a possible portal site and perform several experiments.

5 pages

STRANGER THINGS

CHAPTER NINE: 1984

by Scott Selden

EXT. MOUNTAIN FOREST - DAY

MIKE WHEELER, LUCAS SINCLAIR, DUSTIN HENDERSON, and WILL BYERS hike between oaks hefting heavy packs, sweating in summer heat. Each totes a unique leather parcel while Lucas carries wooden stakes.

DUSTIN

It's so hot right now. (HUFFS) I feel like a burro.

LUCAS

You smell like one too.

DUSTIN

Like an ass is that what you're saying?

MIKE

You know we're almost there.

DUSTIN

Yeah but that doesn't change my mind.

WILL

Nothing seems to have moved since we were out here.

MIKE

When was that again?

LUCAS

Two or three weeks, give or take.

DUSTIN

Give or take what?

LUCAS

Yer two cents ya shmuck.

WILL

(faux jeering)
Ooooooh.

They laugh and continue down a trodden path.

WILL

I think I want to re-spec my archer.

MIKE

What?

DUSTIN

Why?

WILL
I think I want her to be a paladin
instead.

MIKE
A warrior cleric class.

Will smiles.

LUCAS
But as a scout she was perfect
during the last campaign.

DUSTIN
(bad British accent)
Many an orc was spotted from afar.

MIKE
The multi-shot is really useful.

WILL
All valid points however! I think
we can all agree that the legendary
Alice of Zaltar in the end under
performed. Her abilities were
pretty much useless against the
coastal swarms.

The boys grin, recalling the outcome.

LUCAS
And you think a paladin will be
more effective?

WILL
I do. I think the party's strong
enough to take its chances in the
beginning, and that the monk's
endurance spells are basically
required for the final boss.

LUCAS
More support stats are always
welcome.

DUSTIN
But what about the failure rate of
sand traps without the scout's
perception points?

MIKE
The quandaries of high adventure.

EXT. MOUNTAIN CLEARING - DAY

Weathered INDIAN TOTEMS tower over a dark hearth on a secluded cliff. The boys enter cheering open sun and air, claiming and collapsing on boulders.

Mike squints at ancient sigils while catching his breath.

MIKE

Right out of skull island.

LUCAS

The Shawnee definitely knew how to carve.

DUSTIN

Wouldn't want to find out the hard way.

WILL

Me neither.

Each slips out of their packs, relieved. Will produces labelled notebooks and sorts them. Dustin gulps from a canteen while Lucas lays his stakes aside and sets out a geiger counter and spectrograph.

MIKE

You know we're actually getting pretty good at this.

DUSTIN

Let's not jinx it okay?

LUCAS

Yeah I'd rather say that after the tests have cleared. Batteries good to go.

Will hands Mike a notebook.

WILL

Six three.

MIKE

Right.

Mike flips past pages of penned notes to a clean sheet and dates it 6/3/84. Dustin cues tapes inside three cheap recorders while Lucas dates a journal as well.

MIKE

Would you describe it as fair skies today?

Lucas scoffs.

DUSTIN
Sure Mike.

Mike smiles and writes.

MIKE
What should we start with?

LUCAS
Baseline observations?

WILL
Mmhmm.

Lucas flicks on the spectrograph while Will squints through a detached rifle's THERMAL SCOPE, scanning the area. Dustin activates all three recorders and arranges them.

LUCAS
Seventeen ohms and nothing lower.

MIKE
Got it.

DUSTIN
No visual disturbances of any possible portal sites.

Will studies their surroundings through the thermal lens.

WILL
No temperature spikes either.

MIKE
What about those?

Mike points out a ring of trees and Will's gaze follows.

WILL
All clear.

Lucas wanders around waving the geiger counter while Dustin monitors spinning tapes.

MIKE
Think we're ready for a blood test?

The group gauges its resolve and acquiesces, one by one. Mike retrieves a BLOODY VIAL and approaches one of the oldest, creaking maple trees. Each watches intently as he drizzles out a thick clot onto its bark. Will edges toward a pistol in his pack but does not draw...

And nothing happens. No rumblings triggered by the bloody presence. No shape shifting. No El.

MIKE
Negative.

DUSTIN
Thank god.

Each sighs, relieved as the wind begins to howl.

CUE OPENING CREDITS SEQUENCE

EXT. REMOTE GAS STATION - DAY

Trucks and sedans sit outside a simple shop surrounded by forest and a single road. JONATHAN BYERS strides happily to his Ford LTD parked at one of the pumps. He pops the trunk and stashes his bagged purchase- a twelve pack of beer.

In one cool move he twists and turns his attention to the nozzle, starts filling up... Only to frown at CHIEF HOPPER'S SERVICE BLAZER rolling in, halting beside him at an opposite pump.

JIM HOPPER cuts the engine and steps out.

JONATHAN
Your tank's on the other side.

HOPPER
Is it? I didn't even notice.

Hopper smirks and approaches, sizing up Jonathan's grin.

HOPPER
You look well.

JONATHAN
It must be all that studying I've been doing. With exams, you know.

HOPPER
The healthy glow of a book worm? No I don't really see that as being you. Taking girls out to the lake right? Led Zep Three and Four?

Jonathan laughs.