Translating Books to Movies

Books and movies are very different mediums. A book is composed entirely of words, and it is up to the reader’s imagination to “see” and “hear” what is going on in the story. In a movie, someone has already interpreted those aspects of the story for you, and chosen actors, costumes, scenery, etc. to make the story come alive.

**YOUR PROJECT:** Pretend you are adapting your favorite book for film. Choose one short scene that contains dialogue. Think about the actors, costumes, scenery, etc. that you would choose. Fill out the organizer.

**NAME OF BOOK:** ______________________________________________________

**SHORT DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS SCENE:** ______________________

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WHAT CHARACTERS ARE IN THIS SCENE? ________________________________________

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WHAT IS THE SETTING? ______________________________________________________

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WHAT “STAGE DIRECTIONS” ARE NEEDED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN THE DIALOGUE TO INDICATE WHAT CHARACTERS ARE DOING WHILE THEY ARE TALKING?

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WHAT IS THE TONE OR MOOD OF THIS SCENE? __________________________

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HOW DO YOU KNOW? _______________________________________________

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WHAT CAN YOU DO OR USE TO CONVEY THIS TONE OR MOOD IN YOUR FILM?

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IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR FILM VERSION THAT WILL VARY FROM THE BOOK VERSION? HOW OR WHY?

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