



Escape from the White House



Scenario Conception and room setup



Items' index

Phase A

- I1: The letter
- I2: The pocket torch
- I3: American flag with a pinned post
- I4: The locked cupboard

Phase B

- I5: Lincoln's message
- I6: Handcuffs
- I7: Newspaper articles
- I8: Wallet with money in it

Phase C

- I9: Wooden box with a padlock
- I10: A pair of scissors
- I11: A corresponding book
- I12: A hidden key



Phase D

- I13: A power point presentation

Additional decor elements (optional)

- A medal of honour for the players



Detailed conception

I1 – The letter

Material requirement

- Paper
- Pen or computer

Explanations

The letter Abraham Lincoln has sent to the team of players can be either printed from a computer or handwritten on a piece of paper. American national anthem will be on the other side of the letter. Only one word will be written with a neon marker. In order to be readable for students with Specific Learning Disorders, the text and the anthem need to be adjusted throughout the game, thus avoiding confusion.

Below is the text you can write in Lincoln's letter:

To the team of young heroes and patriots in the White House:

Dear players,

I am sorry to inform you that we are threatened by an awful terrorist attack that is

about to happen. Evil forces intend to destroy our country and put the whole world in danger. You have to warn the world! The Oval Office has only one way out. You have to find what sparks a light in you so you can illuminate the universe. Maybe, it's now time to turn the page.



Abraham Lincoln, the former American president

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the
free and the home of the brave? On the shore dimly seen through
the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner, O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.
And where is that band who so vauntingly swore



That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion, A home and a country, should leave us no more? Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.

No refuge could save the hireling and slave

From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:

And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand

Between their loved homes and the war's desolation.

Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land

Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,

And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust. '

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

I2 – The pocket lamp

Material requirements

- Neon marker or fluorescent dyes
- Pocket lamp that emits black light



Explanations

The national anthem written on the back of Lincoln's letter will contain a word "star" written with a neon marker. The lyrics need to be legible so you can respect the principle of inclusiveness. Once the players illuminate the letter with a pocket torch, they will detect the word. Since there is a continuous repetition of the word "star", you can highlight the word at the end of the lyrics, thus getting the players involved in the reading activity. The lyrics could look like this:

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?

9And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;

O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the
free and the home of the brave? On the shore dimly seen through
the mists of the deep,

Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,

What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,

As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?

Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,

In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:



'Tis the star-spangled banner, O long may it wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore

That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion, A home and a
country, should leave us no more? Their blood has washed out their
foul footsteps' pollution.

No refuge could save the hireling and slave

From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:

And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand

Between their loved homes and the war's desolation.

Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n rescued land

Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation!

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,

And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust. '

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

The pocket lamp will be hidden inside of a table lamp, on the desk.





13 – American flag with a pinned post

Material requirements

- American flag
- A piece of paper
- A pin
- A yellow and grey marker
- A pen

Explanations

To make this riddle you will need to do the following:

STEP 1: Write the riddle on a piece of paper

On a small piece of paper, write: “Don’t you see? The sleepy soldiers should join the awakened ones to save the country.”

STEP 2: Pin the post on a flag

STEP 3: Paint the stars on the flag

To do this you should take the yellow and grey marker. Seventeen stars coloured in grey mean they are sleepy and thirty-three coloured in yellow mean they are awake.



I4 – The locked cupboard

Material requirement

- A cupboard
- Four-digit lock
- A star sticker

Explanations

On a cupboard placed in the room put the star sticker or draw a little star on a piece of paper and stick it to the cupboard. The players should enter a four-digit code they got from the flag to open the cupboard.

I5 – Lincoln's message

Material requirement

- A piece of paper
- A pen

Explanations

Inside the cupboard the players will find another message from Abraham Lincoln. Write the words "In the year of 1??5 I will set you all free" or type them on a computer and print it. They have to find the missing numbers and guess the year.



16 – Handcuff

Material requirement

- Handcuffs
- A marker

Explanations

The handcuffs will be placed in the corner of a room. The handcuffs should have two engraved numbers, 8 and 6, or you can use the marker and write the numbers on it. You can get plastic handcuffs from a toy store.

17 – Newspaper articles

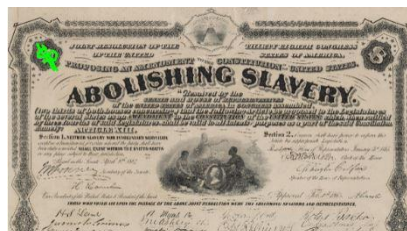
Material requirement

- A few black and white printed historical documents or articles
- A green marker

Explanations

Get a few historical articles about the United States in English or print them in black and white. Use these documents as basis for your riddle and highlight a dollar bill. Place the documents on a wall, above the handcuffs. The Game Master can take inspiration from the picture bellow and create a fake newspaper article.

<https://www.nbc12.com/2019/12/18/this-day-th-amendment-abolishing-slavery-is-certified-by-secretary-state/>





18 – The wallet with money

Material requirement

- Wallet
- Dollar bills (\$100, \$1, \$5)
- A pen

Explanations

For this item, take a wallet and place it in a locked drawer.

STEP 1: Print the dollar bills

Print these three bills or find false dollar bills.

STEP 2: Write a message

Take a pen and write “COUNT on me” on a 5-dollar bill that features a portrait of Abraham Lincoln

STEP 3: Put the wallet inside the drawer

Place the money inside of a wallet and close it.

The 5-dollar bill with a hidden message can look like this:





I9 – The wooden box with a padlock

Material requirement

- A box that opens with a 3 number code (the one obtained from counting the bills in the wallet)

Explanations

For this item, you will need to get a small wooden box and place it on the desk. It will also contain the items mentioned below. The box will be locked with a padlock with the code 106.

I10- A pair of scissors

Material requirement

- A pair of scissors
- Lock for the scissors
- Small piece of paper
- Some glue
- A small piece of rope

Explanations

To create the riddle placed in a box from a previous item, you will need to follow several steps:

STEP 1: Write a quote

Get a piece of paper and write the quote:

“My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still”

Walt Whitman.



STEP 2: Glue the quote to the scissors together with a piece of rope.

STEP 3: Lock the scissors

You can lock the scissors so they cannot be used before finding the key. Place a note that says that players have to use the scissors only for the material hanging on it.

I11- A corresponding book

Material requirement

- A poetry book by Walt Whitman
- Several more books placed on a bookshelf

Explanations

Find a poetry book by Walt Whitman containing the poem “O Captain! My Captain!” dedicated to Abraham Lincoln.

You can order the book at

<https://books.google.rs/books?id=5ZSjAQAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=walt+w hitman+book+of+poem+captain+my+captain&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwinzIKt69n1AhVJgv0HHYC5BAkQ6AF6BAgKEAI#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

Take a couple of books and place it on a bookshelf. There is also an option of making book spines and sticking them on cardboard to make books ready for the bookcase.

**I12- A hidden key****Material requirement**

- A poetry book by Walt Whitman
- A key
- A pen

Explanations

Find the page with the poem “O Captain! My Captain!” and write the riddle using a pen. Look the key inside the book that releases the scissors.

I13- A PowerPoint presentation**Material requirement**

- A projector
- Curtains
- A presentation
- A computer

Explanations

In order to do this, you need to follow the steps.

STEP 1: Place the projector at one side of a room

The projector should be facing the curtains. The curtains will be closed once the players cut the ropes.

STEP 2: Make a presentation

You are supposed to make a presentation using the computer connected to the projector and let it play. The first slide will be entitled “Crack the code”.



Make a table of symbols like the one below.

♥ = A	✕ = N
✚ = B	✚ = O
⇒ = C	◐ = P
✚ = D	☞ = Q
⚙ = E	! = R
□ = F	◆ = S
✂ = G	✚ = T
■ = H	▲ = U
★ = I	✚ = V
✈ = J	✚ = W
✓ = K	● = X
✕ = L	○ = Y
☞ = M	☞ = Z

☞	!	⚙	⚙	✕	✚	☞
✚	♥	✕				
✕	★	⚙				

In order to remember the words, the players can be provided with a piece of paper and a pen.

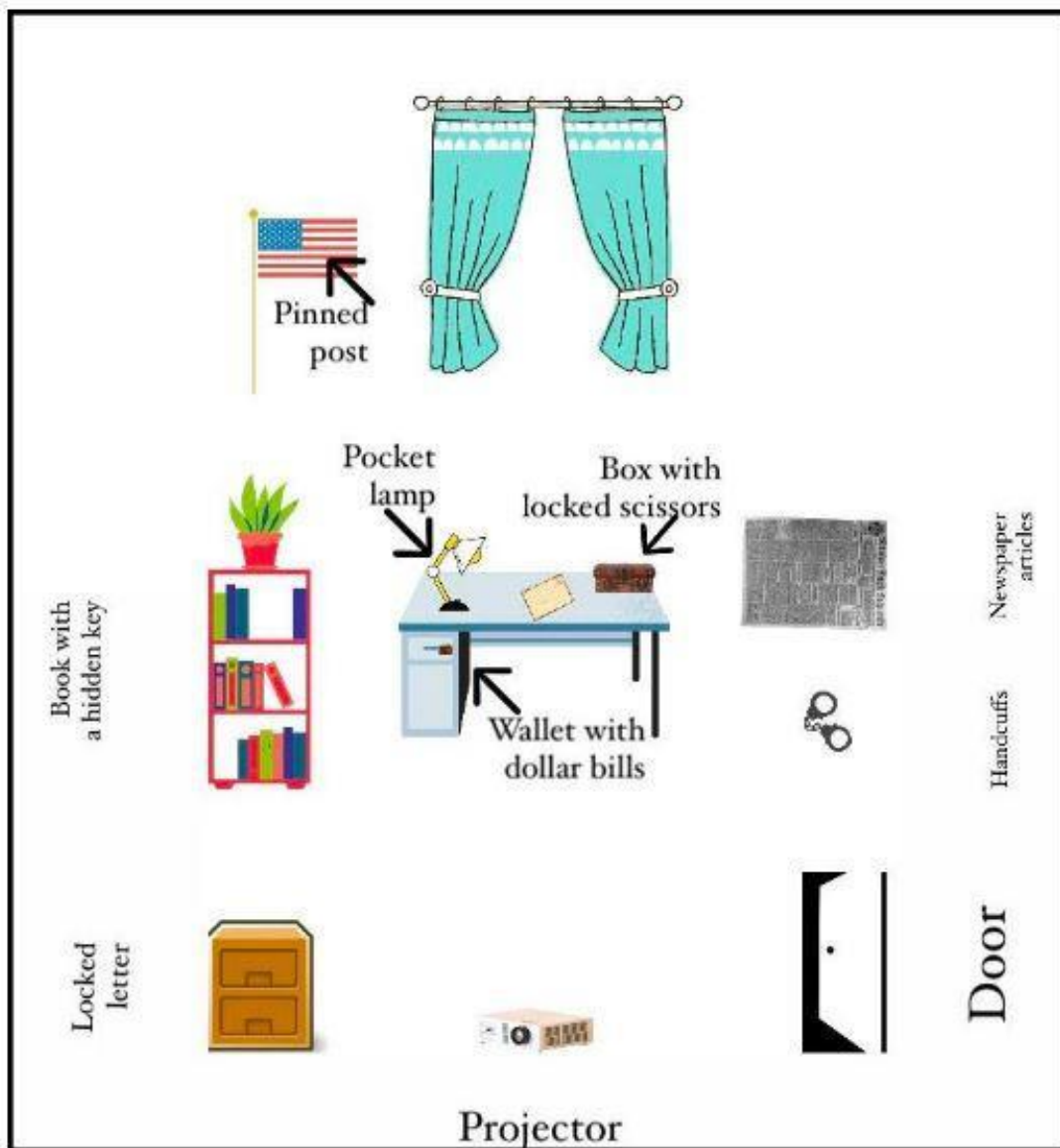
Make the next slide with the sentence: "Poetry is all nouns"

"Say it out loud".



Set up the room

The following image will help you visualise how the room to escape from could look like. This image is also in the annexe folder in a higher resolution.



Don't hesitate to add decorative elements and choose some music to improve the immersion of your players.



You can have a look at chapter 3 of our guide “Animation of a pedagogical escape room for language education” (which you will find [on our website](#)) to learn more about how you can make the game more immersive.

Set up for Phase A

1. Place Lincoln’s letter on the desk.
2. Mark the word “star” with a neon marker in the anthem.
3. Hide the pocket lamp inside the table lamp.
4. Pin a post on a flag.
5. Colour the stars on the flag.
6. Place the star stickers on a cupboard.
7. Set the number code as 1733.

Set up for Phase B

1. Place Lincoln’s letter in the cupboard
2. Mark the handcuffs with 8 and 6 and put them in the corner of the room
3. Put different black and white documents on the wall with abolishment document
4. Colour the dollar sign from the document in green
5. Write “COUNT on me” on a 5-dollar bill
6. Put it with a 100 and a 1-dollar bill in a wallet
7. Lock the wallet in drawer



Set up for Phase C

1. Lock the scissors with a key lock
2. Glue Whitman's quote on the scissors with a piece of rope
3. Put the scissors in a box
4. Lock the box with the code 106
5. Place the box on a desk
6. Arrange a couple of books on a bookshelf
7. Hide the key in Whitman's book and lock it

Set up for Phase D

1. Tie the curtains with a rope
2. Make a PowerPoint presentation
3. Turn on the projector facing the curtains
4. You can also hide several non-playing characters behind the door so when the players open it, they find a journalist whom they'll warn of the terrorist attack.



Erasmus+

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Project code: 2020-1-FR01-KA201-080646



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons. Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>