

Final Project Proposal: Radio Drama

Title: Bellfield Files

Time: 5-minute episode (Is the first episode in the series)

Description: Think of this radio drama as a new age Nancy Drew for children. Instead of being a book series, it is a series on the radio that children tune into every week.

Madeline Sobeski is a fifteen-year-old freshman in high school that's just moved from the big city of New York to the fictional town of Bellfield in the Midwest. Her father, a New York cop, wanted to get out of the city life and decided to accept a job as a small town police chief. Madeline lives with her father, mother, and older brother, Charles. This is a short five-minute program on a family station that airs one episode a week, at different times throughout the day.

Target Audience: The target audience is children ages 10 to 15. These are children who are driven to places by their parents and more likely to be listening to what their parents tune into on the radio.

Treatment: The episode I will write will be the first episode and what is the beginning of a series of adventures that young Madeline Sobeski embarks on. We meet Madeline, or Maddie, as she likes to be called, during her first day at a new school. Maddie runs into Box who mentions an interesting article the local paper *Bellfield Times* wrote about.

Maddie suddenly interested reads the article to find there was a break in at the local hardware store where a few things were stolen. She writes down the stolen materials in her notebook. Box and Maddie go to class and we are introduced to Mr. Bradley, Damon, and Sam. Mr. Bradley's lecture inspires Maddie to piece together what those stolen materials could be used for.

Characters:

Theodore Box: “Box” goes by his last name. He’s the super outgoing and loud one. He is not afraid to speak his mind. He doesn’t care how people judge him, as long as he’s being himself.

Damon Rady: He is more of a nerd and has a real knack for research. This comes in handy when Maddie needs it.

Madeline Sobeski: “Maddie” is a down to earth, people person. She loves New York and has many extravagant stories from life in the city. She is book smart and is driven to learn about detective work. Her quirk is that she carries a notebook with her at all times to record mysteries and interesting events that happen.

Mr. Bradley: He is the very happy, positive science teacher. He encourages the kids’ creativity and is the helping hand in solving problems.

Samantha Parks: “Sam” is a small town girl. She’s friendly and welcoming to anyone. She’s the girl who knows everyone and their stories.

Plan: April 7 – Draft Written

April 9 – List of SFX needed

April 14 – Revised Draft Written

April 16 – All SFX collected and edited

Bellfield Files

MUSIC THEME MUSIC. ESTABLISH AND FADE UNDER ANNCR.

ANNCR This is Bellfield Files.

MUSIC MUSIC FADE OUT.

SFX HALLWAY OF HIGHSCHOOL. LOCKERS OPENING, FOOTSTEPS, TALKING.
BED.

SFX PENCIL SCRIBBLING IN NOTEBOOK. FADE UNDER MADDIE.

MADDIE August 23rd. I told you the next time I'd be writing I'd be in a whole new place. Well, I said goodbye to the East Coast yesterday and now I'm in the Midwest. From populated New York to suburbia Bellfield. It's a change, that's for sure, but I'm excited...why you ask...no more of the same and boring late night crimes on city streets that I've seen for years...now I have a new town with hidden mysteries just waiting to be uncovered. Now if only I could find my way around this new school.

SFX TWO BODIES CRASH INTO ONE ANOTHER. NOTEBOOK FALLING.

MADDIE Oof!

BOX Woah!

MADDIE Sorry.

SFX HANDS BRUSHING CLOTHES CLEAN.

BOX Nah it's my bad. I wasn't looking where I was going. Here's your diary.

MADDIE Thanks. It's just a notebook though. I'm Maddie by the way.

BOX Theodore Box...but I go by Box.

MADDIE Box?

BOX Hey now, don't go judging the name...it's a lot better than Theodore.

MADDIE (LAUGHS)

BOX So, Maddie...if your pristine blazer and printed blue shorts didn't point it out already I can tell you definitely ain't from Bellfield. You new?

MADDIE Yup. Just moved here from New York.

BOX (WHISTLES) Wow, and you *choose* to come here?

MADDIE My dad's a New York cop...well he was...he said he wanted to get out of the city, but I think my mom just didn't want him patrolling in the city anymore. So he's Bellfield's new police chief.

BOX (PONDERING) Chief Sobeski...(REALIZATION) that was announced in the paper today, see.

SFX RUSTLE OF NEWSPAPER.

BOX (READING OFF) New York cop Michael Sobeski leaves the Big Apple to join Bellfield's police force...

SFX HANDS GRABBING NEWSPAPER.

MADDIE Huh, that's cool. What paper is this...(READING) the *Bellfield Times*.

BOX Why it's our own cherished town newspaper.

MADDIE And you're reading it and you're in high school...what grade are you in?

BOX Oh, I'm a sophomore but I love a good story and *Bellfield Times* always has something.

MADDIE That's pretty cool. Never thought I'd meet someone my age that likes a good story too!

BOX So you're a sophomore?

SFX NEWSPAPER RUSTLE.

MADDIE (DISTRACTED) Yup...wait, what's this...(READING) local store broken into last night... among the stolen items was ABS pipe, a BBQ igniter, cement, an adaptor, and a drill. Hmm...

SFX SCRIBBLING IN NOTEBOOK.

BOX What are you doing?

MADDIE Writing the things down.

BOX I can see that Captain Obvious...why?

MADDIE Because like you said before...this paper has good stories and I bet I can figure this one out.

SFX WARNING BELL RINGS.

MADDIE Shoot. I have to go...oh which way...which way...

SFX FINAL BELL RINGS

MADDIE Oh no! I can't be late...

BOX Chillax girl, let me see your schedule

SFX RUSTLE OF PAPER

BOX (PAUSE TO READ) Oh hey we have the same class...come on "miss freak out" follow me.

MUSIC MUSIC RISES. HOLD FOR FIVE SECONDS. FADE OUT SLOWLY.

SFX CHATTER IN A CLASSROOM.

BRADLEY Come on kids. Everyone in...I know, I know last class of the day but come on settle down.

SAM Box! Saved ya a seat.

SFX FEET WALKING, SEAT PULLING OUT. SOMEONE SITTING, CHAIR SCRAPING
IN.

BOX Thanks *Sammie* darling.

SFX A PUNCH/SLAP HITTING AN ARM.

SAM Never call me *that* again Theodore.

BOX Okay, okay chillax girl.

SFX ONE SET OF FOOTSTEPS.

BOX Maddie come on! Over here, sit by us.

SFX SEAT PULLING OUT. SOMEONE SITTING, CHAIR SCRAPING IN.

MADDIE Thanks for helping me find this class Box.

BOX No problem bro. Guys this is Maddie...Maddie this is Sam...(WHISPTER TO
MADDIE) don't call her Sammie or bad things happen.

SAM Plu-lease. Don't scare the girl. Really Box just needs to learn when to shut his
mouth. I'm Sam, nice to meet you Maddie.

MADDIE (SMALL LAUGH) You too Sam.

DAMON Hi I'm Damon.

SAM (ASIDE TO MADDIE) He's our resident nerd.

MADDIE Well, I'm kind of a nerd too so I think we'll get along.

DAMON Great!

BRADLEY Quiet everyone please. SFX: CLASSROOM CHATTER FADES OUT. Welcome to
your last class of the day.

SFX CHEER FROM KIDS. HOLD FOR THREE SECONDS THEN FADE OUT.

BRADLEY Congratulations are making it through your first day of sophomore year.

Now this is Basic Chemistry and I am your teacher Mr. Bradley. Today we are going to start off with Newton's three laws of motion.

SFX TEACHER TALKING. ESTABLISH THEN BED. STOP WHEN BRADLEY SPEAKS.

SAM So, Maddie where're you from?

BOX New York City.

SAM I believe I was asking Maddie that. So, why'd you move here?

BOX Her dad is the new police chief.

SAM Box!

MADDIE (LAUGHING) No it's okay he's right. My dad's Chief Sobeski.

SAM Cool.

DAMON (WHISPERS) Guys pipe down!

BRADLEY Newton's first law deals with inertia...a body at rest stays at rest and a body in motion stays in motion unless enacted upon by an outside force.

SAM (WHISPER) I'll get the notes from you later Damon, stop spoiling the fun.

DAMON Shhhh!

BRADLEY Newton's second law deals with force and acceleration...a body's rate of change of momentum is proportional to the force causing it.

BOX (WHISPER) It's like he's speaking a different language.

SAM (WHISPER) I hear ya.

DAMON Shhh!

BOX Hey, Maddie whatcha doing?

SFX PENCIL SCRIBBLING FAST ON NOTEBOOK.

MADDIE Shhh!

BOX (WHISPER) Oh no, she's already turning into a female version of Damon.

BRABLEY Newton's third law deals with action and reaction...for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction.

SFX SCRIBBLING ON PAPER. ESTABLISH FOR THREE SECONDS THEN CUT OFF.

MADDIE (SHOCK) No way.

DAMON What is it?

MADDIE (TO HERSELF) It all makes sense.

BOX (TEASING) Come on, Maddie, share with the class.

SAM Don't push her Box! So Maddie what've you got?

MADDIE Shhh or Mr. Bradley will...

BRADLEY Maddie, is there something you'd like to share with the class?

MADDIE No sir, sorry.

SFX PENCIL SCRIBBLING ON PAPER

MADDIE Psst...Damon, here.

SFX HANDS PASSING PAPER.

BOX (WHISPERS) Damon what does the note say?

DAMON (WHISPERS) Maddie knows why those things were stolen.

SFX PAPER BEING SNATCHED.

BOX (READING) Newton's three laws...a launcher?

MUSIC THEME MUSIC, BED.

ANNCR This is Bellfield Files. Tune in next week for more stories as Maddie takes on Bellfield.

MUSIC CRESCENDO UP AND HOLD FOR THREE SECONDS. FADE OUT.

