

# Magical Realism

Using Disney's Oscar-winning  
"Paperman" to explore magical  
realism.



# Magical Realism:

- A term coined by German art critic Franz Roh in 1925 to describe a genre in which magical and fantastical elements are included in a story that otherwise follows the rules of a realistic, real world setting.

## For Example:

- In Gabriel Garcia Marquez's famed One Hundred Years of Solitude, gypsies arrive to town on flying carpets. However, this is treated as if it is something very ordinary and simply woven into the other realistic parts of the story.

# Disney's "Paperman":

- Directed by John Kurs
- Won the Oscar for Best Animated Short Film
- While you are watching, pay attention to how Disney uses magical realism in this short love story.

# Response:

- What did you think of the story?
- Why do you think it was done in black and white and has no words?
- How do you see magical realism used?

## Your turn:

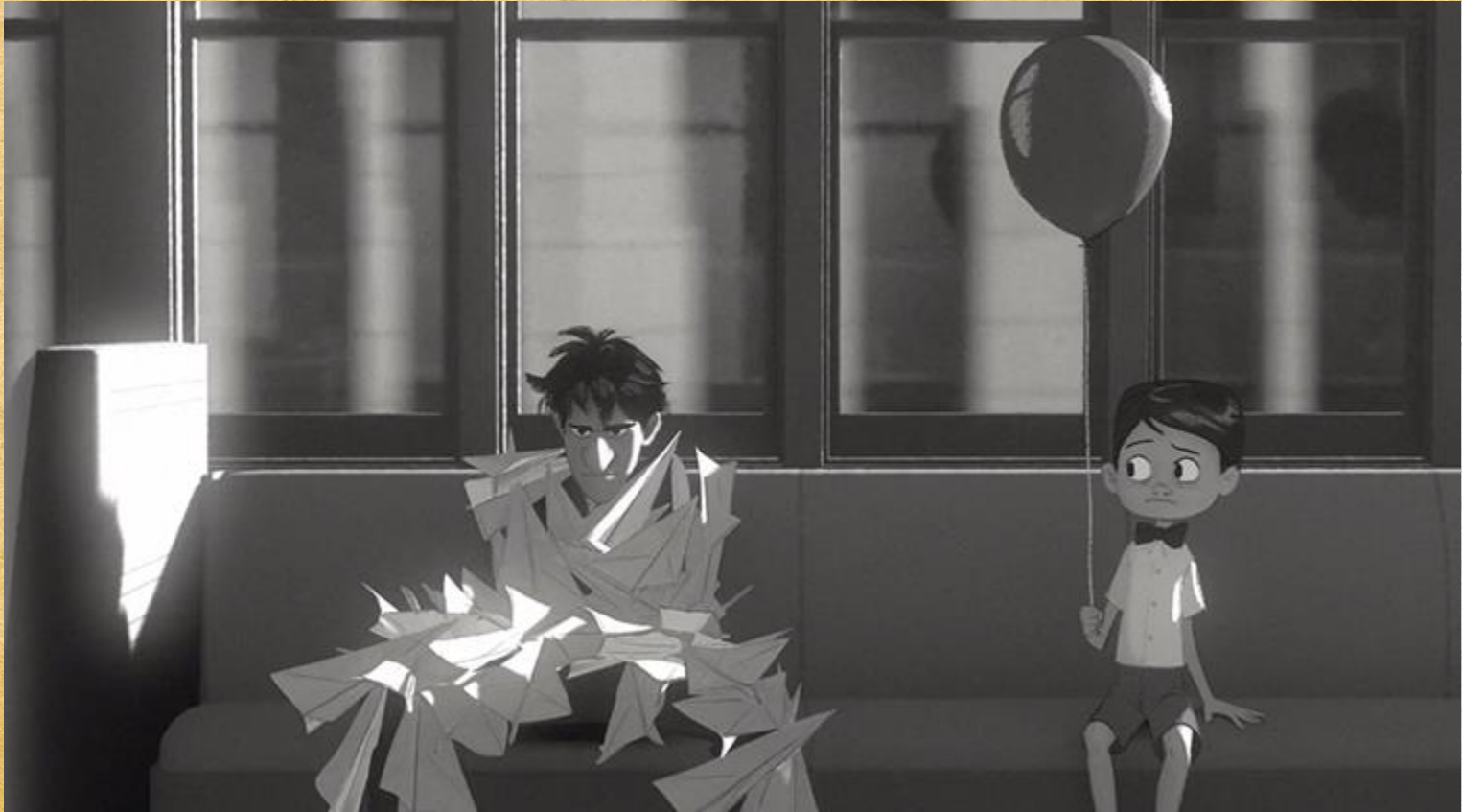
1. Dream up a story that uses magical realism.

- Think of an ordinary setting that you can infuse with magic.
- Maybe you walk into school one day and everyone is levitating. Maybe you can travel through time.

2. You must make your magical elements seem like they're something completely natural.

- Unlike in Harry Potter, when he walks into the dining hall and is amazed to see that the ceiling is bewitched to look like the sky outside, your characters would have to find that totally normal.

Any questions?



Have fun!