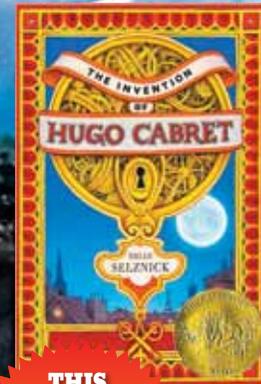


# Hugo

Hugo leads a lonely life in the Paris train station—until he puts together the pieces of a puzzle

ADAPTED BY SPENCER KAYDEN, BASED ON THE MOVIE DIRECTED BY MARTIN SCORSESE, THE SCREENPLAY BY JOHN LOGAN, AND THE NOVEL *THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET* BY BRIAN SELZNICK



THIS MOVIE IS BASED ON ONE OF OUR FAVORITE BOOKS!

UP CLOSE

**The big idea** A theme in this story is that people, like machines, can be broken—and fixed. Think about this as you read.



LOOK FOR WORD NERD'S 8 WORDS IN BOLD

## CHARACTERS

\*Narrators 1, 2, 3, 4 (N1, N2, N3, N4)

**Father:** Hugo's father

\***Hugo:** a 12-year-old boy

**Claude:** Hugo's uncle

\***Georges:** a toy maker

**Station Inspector**

\***Isabelle:** a 13-year-old girl

**Jeanne:** Georges's wife

**René Tabard:** a professor of cinema

\*Indicates large speaking role

## Scene 1

**N1:** *Bonjour*, and welcome to Paris. The year is 1931.

**N2:** Hugo and his father sit inside their cozy home, admiring a mechanical man.

**N3:** The rusted figure is three feet tall and made of gears, levers, and clock parts.

**Father:** It's called an **automaton**. I found him in the attic of the museum where I work. But he's broken.

**Hugo:** What is he supposed to do?

**Father:** You wind him up and he writes.

**Hugo:** Can we fix him?

**Father** (*smiling*): We're clockmakers, aren't we? But . . .

**N4:** Father points to a heart-shaped keyhole at the automaton's back.

**Father:** We need to find its key.

**N1:** Every night, Hugo and his father work on the automaton.

**N2:** They replace old parts and polish the metal until it **gleams**.

**N3:** One night, when Hugo is alone, a large man barges in.

**Hugo** (*surprised*): Uncle Claude?

**Claude:** There was a fire at the museum. Your father's dead. Pack your things. You're coming to live with me.

**N4:** Hugo is **devastated**.

## Scene 2

**N1:** Claude takes Hugo to live with him in a hidden apartment inside the Paris train station.

**Claude:** You'll be my assistant.

**Hugo:** What about school?

**Claude:** You're done with school. All the clocks in the station must be cranked, oiled, and adjusted. The Station Inspector always checks them.

**N2:** Hugo learns how to maintain all the clocks in the train station. He also learns to **navigate** the maze of tunnels inside the station walls.

**N3:** One day, Claude disappears. Days go by. It seems that Claude has left for good. Hugo is totally alone.

**N4:** Hugo fears he will be put in an orphanage. But as long as he keeps the clocks working, no one will notice that Claude is gone.

**N1:** The one thing that comforts Hugo is working on the automaton. It's all he has left of his father.



Hugo and his father work on the automaton. Why is the automaton so important to them?

## Scene 3

**N2:** One morning, Hugo spies the station's toy shop. It is full of fanciful toys that skitter, flip, and fly.

**N3:** Georges, the owner, is a **grim** old man. Hugo wonders how such a sad person can make such magical toys.

**N4:** Georges naps at the counter.

**N1:** Hugo tiptoes over and reaches for a small mechanical mouse.

**N2:** Georges's eyes snap open. He grabs Hugo's wrist.

**Georges:** Got you at last, you little thief! Empty your pockets, or I'll call the Station Inspector!

**N3:** Hugo empties his pockets of screws, springs, and other tiny metal pieces he has stolen.

**Georges:** And the other pocket?

**Hugo:** It's empty.

**Georges** (*shouting*): Station Inspector!

**N4:** Hugo empties his last pocket and **reluctantly** gives up his father's old notebook.

**N1:** Georges flips through the notebook. He finds drawings of the automaton.

**N2:** Georges's face turns pale.

**Georges:** Where did you steal this?

**Hugo:** I didn't! Give me my notebook!

**Georges:** It's mine now.

**Hugo:** No!

**Georges:** Then tell me who did these drawings.

**N3:** Hugo sees the Station Inspector coming.

**Station Inspector:** Do I smell wrongdoing?

**N4:** Hugo runs off.

## Scene 4

**N1:** The next day, Hugo meets a curious girl named Isabelle—Georges’s goddaughter.

**Hugo:** Your godfather stole my notebook. I need it back.

**Isabelle:** Ever since Papa Georges got that notebook, he’s been so upset. Why do you need it so badly?

**Hugo:** I . . . I can’t tell you.

**N2:** Hugo notices Isabelle’s necklace. It’s a heart-shaped key!

**Hugo:** Where’d you get that?

**Isabelle:** From my godmother.

**Hugo:** Come with me!

**N3:** Hugo removes a grate in the wall. He leads Isabelle through dim passageways to his room.

**N4:** He shows Isabelle the automaton.

**Hugo:** My father and I were fixing it, but we never found the key.

**Isabelle:** So you’ve been stealing because you need the parts?

**Hugo:** Yes . . . if I make the automaton work, I think it will write a message from my father.

**Isabelle:** What happened to him?

**Hugo (quietly):** He died.

**Isabelle:** You think about him a lot, don’t you?

**Hugo:** All the time.

**N1:** Isabelle hands Hugo the heart-shaped key. She squeezes his hand.

**Isabelle:** I’m an orphan too.

**N2:** Hugo turns the key in the automaton’s back.

**N3:** Slowly, gears begin moving.

**N4:** The automaton starts making marks on a page. But they’re just scribbles. It stops.

**N1:** Hugo buries his face in his hands.

**Hugo:** It will always be broken!

**N2:** Suddenly, the machine starts moving again.

**Isabelle:** Hugo, look! It’s not writing; it’s drawing!

**N3:** The automaton draws a rocket flying into the face of the moon.

**Hugo:** My father told me about this picture! It’s from the first movie he ever saw, *A Trip to the Moon*.

**N4:** The automaton signs a name.

**Isabelle:** “Georges Méliès.” [may-lee-ez] That’s Papa Georges’s name! Why did your father’s machine sign my godfather’s name?

**Hugo:** I don’t know.

## Scene 5

**N1:** Hugo and Isabelle go to the Film Academy Library.



**Hugo realizes Isabelle has the long-lost heart-shaped key (inset); Hugo and Isabelle look on as the automaton starts to draw. Why is its picture special to each of them?**



**N2:** Isabelle reads from a book about the invention of movies.

**Isabelle:** “Georges Méliès was a magician who became a great pioneer of early cinema. He died during the Great War.”

**Hugo:** Died?

**Isabelle:** That’s what it says.

**N3:** They notice a tall man behind them.

**Tabard:** You’re interested in Georges Méliès?

**Hugo:** Who are you?

**Tabard:** I am a film professor.

**Isabelle:** Georges Méliès is my godfather. And he’s alive!

**Tabard:** Méliès? Alive? It’s a miracle!

**Isabelle:** Can we watch his movies?

**Tabard:** We only know of one that survived. It’s

locked in my desk.

**Hugo:** My father, the automaton, Georges—it’s like a puzzle. When we put it all together, something will happen.

**Isabelle:** Like what?

**Hugo:** Did you ever notice that all machines are made for some reason?

**Isabelle:** Like Papa Georges’s toys that make me laugh?

**Hugo:** Or clocks. They tell time. Maybe that’s why broken machines always make me sad—because they can’t do what they’re meant to do. Maybe it’s the same with people. If you lose your purpose, it’s like you’re broken.

**Isabelle:** Like Papa Georges.

**Hugo:** Maybe we can fix him.

## Scene 6

**N4:** Hugo, Isabelle, and Professor Tabard go to Isabelle’s house.

**N1:** Isabelle’s godmother, Jeanne, answers the door.

**Jeanne:** Isabelle, what’s this about?

**Tabard:** Madame Méliès, as a boy I saw all of your husband’s films. They inspired me.

**Jeanne:** Please go. Georges is quite fragile. He’s very upset about this boy’s notebook. It hurts him to remember the past.

**Tabard:** We’ll go, Madame. But I must say, you’re as lovely now as you were in his movies.

**Jeanne (blushing):** That was a long time ago. I was another person.

**Tabard:** Would you like to meet her again? We have a film.

**Jeanne:** One of Georges’s films? That’s impossible. They were all destroyed.

**Isabelle:** Please, Mama Jeanne.

**Jeanne:** All right. But quickly.

**N2:** Tabard takes out a portable projector.

**N3:** It plays *A Trip to the Moon*, a fantastical adventure with magic tricks, bizarre creatures, and a lovely young woman.

**Isabelle:** Mama Jeanne . . . it’s you!

**Jeanne (quietly):** Yes.

**N4:** They watch the rocket crash into the moon—the same scene the automaton drew.

**N1:** The film is unlike anything they’ve ever seen.

**Hugo:** It’s like seeing your dreams in the middle of the day.

**N2:** As the film ends, Jeanne dries her eyes. Isabelle takes her hand.

**Isabelle:** You were so beautiful.

**Georges:** She still is.

**N3:** They turn and see Georges standing in the doorway. He looks drained.

**Georges:** I would recognize the sound of a projector anywhere.



**Hugo and Georges in the toy shop (above); the Station Inspector is determined to haul Hugo off to the orphanage (right).**



**Jeanne:** Georges, trying to forget the past has brought you only sadness. Maybe it's time to remember.

## Scene 7

**N4:** Georges tells them about his life.

**Georges:** Jeanne and I built our own movie studio. I wrote, directed, and acted in hundreds of movies. We couldn't have been happier.

**Hugo:** What happened?

**Georges:** The war came, and the world had no time for magic tricks and movies. We went broke.

**Isabelle:** But what about all your movies?

**Georges:** I had to sell them to a company, which melted down the film to make heels for shoes. I burned all my sets and costumes.

**Isabelle:** Oh, Papa Georges!

**Georges:** The only thing I couldn't bring myself to destroy was my beloved automaton. I gave him to a museum, but then the museum burned down. Everything I ever made is gone, nothing but ashes.

**N1:** Hugo gives Isabelle a secret look.

**Hugo:** I'll be right back!

**N2:** Hugo rushes back to the train station and grabs the automaton.

**N3:** As he hurries through the crowd, the Station Inspector grabs him.

**Inspector:** Where are your parents, little man?

**Hugo:** Let me go! I don't have parents.

**Inspector:** Then it's straight to the orphanage.

**Hugo:** No! I don't belong there!

**Inspector:** Where do you belong then?

**N4:** Hugo fights back tears. He hugs the automaton to his chest.

**Hugo:** Please . . .

**N1:** Georges and Isabelle appear beside him.

**Georges:** Inspector, this child belongs to me.

## Epilogue

**N2:** Hugo goes to live with Georges, Jeanne, and Isabelle.

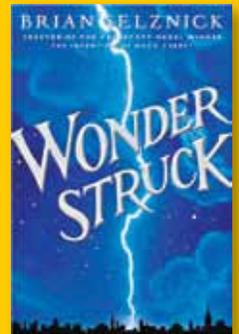
**N3:** Professor Tabard invites Georges to teach at the Film Academy.

**N4:** Georges is forever grateful to Hugo for bringing him back to life.

**Georges:** Hugo, you saw a broken machine, and against all odds, you fixed it. It is the kindest magic trick I have ever seen. 🔑

## WRITE TO WIN!

In Scene 5, Hugo says that people, like machines, can be broken. How is Georges broken? How does Hugo help fix him? Write your answer in a well-organized paragraph, and send it to "Hugo Contest" by May 15, 2012. Ten winners will each receive a copy of *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick. See page 2 for details.



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