

How to create your own sitcom

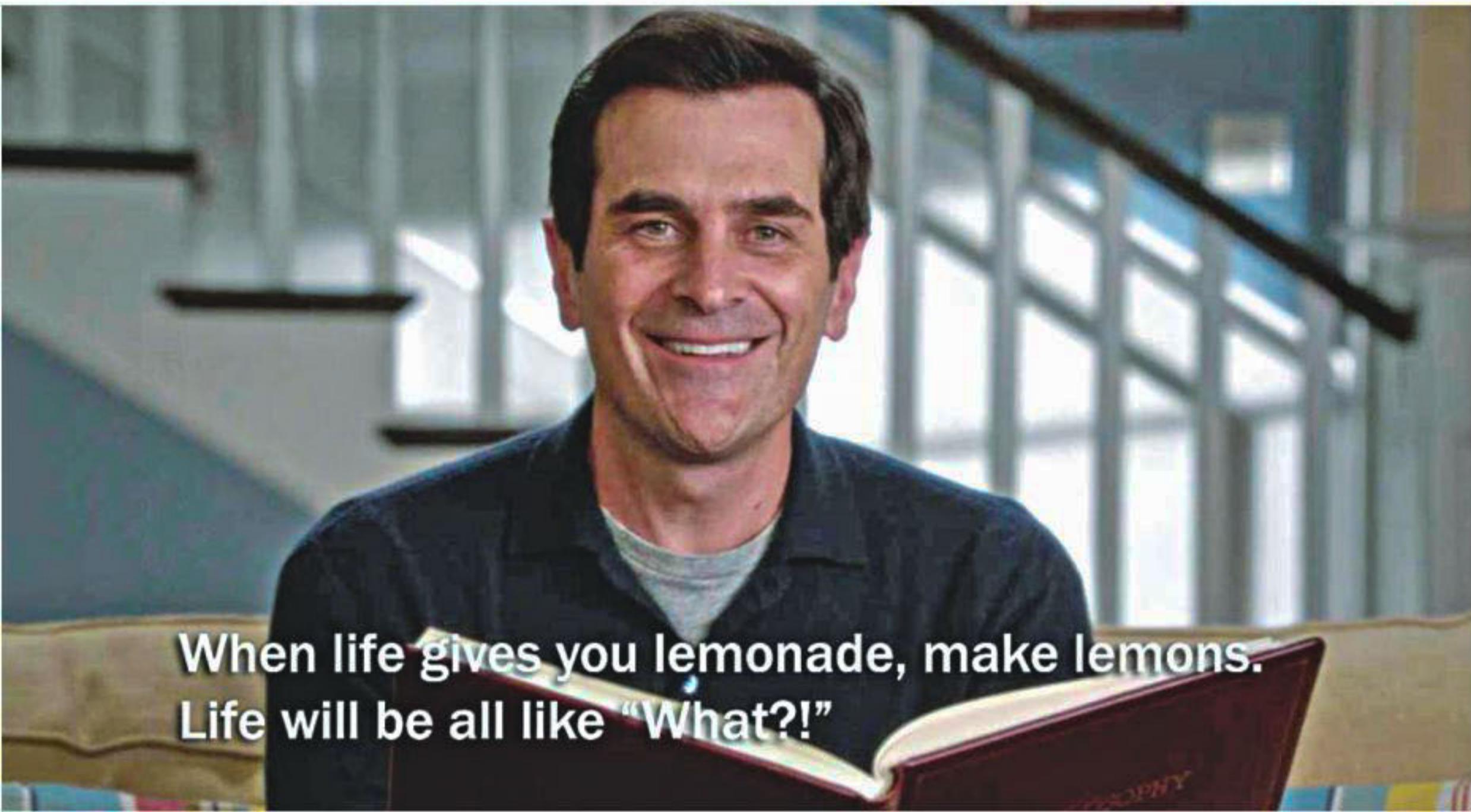
TASNIM ODRIKA

Did you just finish watching a poorly made sitcom that somehow won two Emmys? And now you're probably thinking, "Hey, I could have done it better!" Well, it's difficult to say whether you could have actually done it better or not but here's my guide to making your very own poorly made sitcom.

THE SETTING

When you're writing a sitcom, you have to momentarily forget about the existence of plots. Instead, the setting of the sitcom IS the plot. This might sound a bit confusing. But, if you have watched enough sitcoms you'll realise that all these shows are basically the same but in different settings.

Moving on, you have two settings to



choose from:

- 1) The dysfunctional friend/work friend group
- 2) The dysfunctional family

And, that's about it. It's that easy! You choose one and you're good to go.

THE CHARACTERS

Now that you've chosen your setting, it's time to select the appropriate characters.

For the dysfunctional friend/work friend setting, you need around 5 or 6 characters. Firstly, you need a couple who is going to have an on-off relationship throughout the entirety of the show. This couple will have to be interesting enough to generate debates as to whether they will end up together or not (spoiler alert: they will). The next couple in the show will be the one that will make everyone go, "Relationship goals!" So, now you have incorporated elements of both mystery and love into the show. Throw in a funny character whose main purpose is to just crack jokes and you have a sitcom.

For the dysfunctional family setting, you need an impulsive, carefree, and a not too intelligent (but funny) character to play the dad of a family of 5 (or 4).

Then, you have the mom who is the complete opposite of the dad but somehow they fit like two pieces of a puzzle. For the kids, the number or gender is not of much significance as long as you make one of them moody and popular; the other one must be shy and nerdy. Also, don't forget to throw in some recurring background characters who actually don't add any value to the storyline.

BE FUNNY

This is undoubtedly the most difficult step. A lot of shows do very well in the first two steps but get stuck on this one. The meaning of sitcom is "situation comedy", hence, you have to keep the comedic elements. If you have, after a lot of struggles, managed to be somehow funny, be sure to stay that way.

And there you have it - your very own sitcom. Now, be sure to name it something quirky like "Puzzles" so that people watch the show just to find out the reason behind its name.

Tasnim Odrika is having an existential crisis at the moment and doesn't really know who she is anymore. Send her compliments at odrika_02@yahoo.com

UEFA Champions League teams as people: 2018 Semifinals Edition

NUHAN B. ABID

Another year, another edition of the UEFA Champions League. And of course, it means singing "...THE CHAMPIOOOOOONS!" and readying your meme game to roast your poor buddy whose team is gonna get knocked out all the while praying your team doesn't. What if such teams were like us people? What would be their stereotypes? Let's find out.

REAL MADRID: Can't open a UCL list without talking about the most successful club and current champions. If Madrid were a person, they'd be the kind of flashy show-offs who always boast about being the best of the best. They sure underperform a lot in their daily lives, but they really show what they're known for as soon as they have someone trying to outcompete them. They're aristocrats but damn do they earn it. Even if earning it means they screw up so well it works out so they can gloat. Just don't hang out with them too much if you can't handle them being insufferable.

LIVERPOOL: The smart young kid in childhood who grew up to be just about average, but everyone still believes they are that young prodigy. The good news is, thanks to a new work ethic, they might be getting that good old talent back they lost in childhood. Maybe you shouldn't mock them about their history right now, they might really one up you. Also very devout and religious - maybe that's why they're so good now.

BAYERN MUNICH: If Bayern were a person, they'd be that cool stoic German guy who always says "Ja" in response to everything, because he has to be peak efficient. They're cool, calm and collected and take good pride in finishing 1st in everything all the time, because that's what Germans like doing. They don't have an ego like Madrid, but it's only because everyone in their daily

lives drops the ball on them all the time. They're a bit too good for their own environment, and love taking toys from all their German friends to play with. Gotta love that kind of robbery.

ROMA: That guy who's pretty good personally, but next to their seniors and other elites they kinda start whimpering and have performance issues. They're wolves on the outside, but they're really like a scared puppies once things look a little tough. They're mad at Juventus for

always being better than they are, and no matter how hard they seem to try they just can't seem to show them up. But maybe it's best not to underestimate them, they certainly wolfed down on Spanish champs chumps hard recently.

(BONUS) MANCHESTER UNITED: Your local bus driver. Great at parallel parking double-deckers. Forgot to actually drive the bus and just left the keys in the engine, which is why they weren't in the top 8 with the rest.

I'm Arsenal, btw.

