

Horror Trope Flip Worksheet			
Overused Trope	Fresh Flip	How Does This Appear in My Script?	How Can I Subvert or Strength It?
The Final Girl is always the pure, virginal character	Make the final survivor morally gray or flawed—someone unexpected, like the party girl or the reluctant villain.		
Jump scare fake-outs with no payoff	Use a scare that lingers emotionally—something the character can't unsee or unfeel, not just the audience.		
Characters splitting up for no reason	Have them stay together but still be picked off through clever manipulation, psychological division, or creature strategy.		
The phone/internet always conveniently stops working	Let communication work but twist it—maybe the killer is texting them, or GPS leads them deeper into danger.		
The monster is explained by a cursed ancient object or forgotten legend	Skip the exposition or give a misleading origin—let the horror remain ambiguous or personal to the protagonist.		
The Black character dies first	Center the story on a diverse cast and subvert expectations—give the marginalized character agency and complexity.		
It was all just a dream	Blur reality and dream logic throughout the story so the audience (and characters) are never quite sure what's real.		
Possession always requires a religious exorcism	Explore non-Western traditions, psychological cures, or unconventional methods to confront the possession.		
The creepy kid with zero depth	Give them an emotional backstory—or better, let us empathize with them.		
Running upstairs instead of out the door	Trap them logically. Make their bad decisions feel like the only option in the moment.		