

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Scripting the Scene: A 7th Grade Playwriting Probe

Students synthesize dramatic structure and subtext across 10 demanding challenges focused on advanced theatrical architecture and character intent.

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**1. In a script's 'inciting incident,' what is the primary function of the playwright's choice to disrupt the protagonist's status quo?**

**Answer:** B) To establish the dramatic necessity that drives the rest of the plot.

The inciting incident is the event that sets the story in motion, creating a problem or goal that the character must pursue, thereby necessitating the drama.

**2. When a playwright writes a character saying one thing while meaning another, they are effectively utilizing \_\_\_\_\_ to create depth.**

**Answer:** C) Subtext

Subtext refers to the underlying meaning or unspoken thoughts and motives behind a character's literal spoken words.

**3. True or False: In advanced playwriting, stage directions should exclusively dictate every physical movement of an actor to ensure the playwright's vision is unchanged.**

**Answer:** B) False

Effective stage directions provide essential context and mood but usually leave room for artistic interpretation by the director and actors.

**4. Consider Sophocles' 'Antigone.' Which element represents the 'agon' or central struggle that defines the play's conflict?**

**Answer:** C) The clash between individual moral conscience and state law.

In high-stakes drama, the conflict often stems from two opposing and deeply held values, such as Antigone's duty to her brother versus Creon's decree.

**5. In a three-act structure, the \_\_\_\_\_ usually occurs near the end of Act II, representing the moment of greatest tension.**

**Answer:** B) Climax

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The climax is the turning point of highest emotional intensity or the decisive confrontation in the narrative.

**6. How does a 'stichomythia' (rapid, alternating lines of dialogue) typically affect the pacing of a scene?**

**Answer:** B) It creates a sense of heightened tension, urgency, or conflict.

Quick, punchy exchanges in dialogue mimic a verbal duel, which increases the energy and perceived speed of the scene.

**7. True or False: A 'foil' is a character whose primary purpose is to highlight specific traits of the protagonist through contrast.**

**Answer:** A) True

Playwrights use foils to sharpen the audience's understanding of the main character's strengths or flaws by showing a different reaction to the same circumstances.

**8. The linguistic style used by Lorraine Hansberry in 'A Raisin in the Sun' helps establish the characters' \_\_\_\_\_ and social context.**

**Answer:** C) Dialect

Dialect and speech patterns are tools playwrights use to provide realism and ground characters in a specific time, place, or culture.

**9. When writing a 'soliloquy,' what is the playwright's primary goal regarding the audience?**

**Answer:** C) To provide a direct window into a character's private thoughts and motivations.

A soliloquy is a dramatic device where a character speaks their inner thoughts aloud while alone, allowing the audience to understand their psyche.

**10. True or False: 'Denouement' refers to the part of the play where the tension is at its absolute peak before any resolution starts.**

**Answer:** B) False

The denouement is the final part of the play where the strands of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved.