

Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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

- A. To provide a resolution to the central conflict immediately.
- B. To establish the dramatic necessity that drives the rest of the plot.
- C. To introduce the setting through descriptive stage directions.
- D. To end the play's second act with a cliffhanger.

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

- A. Exposition
- B. Monologue
- C. Subtext
- D. Soliloquy

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.

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. The physical weather conditions of the Greek islands.
- B. The internal monologue of the Chorus regarding the scenery.
- C. The clash between individual moral conscience and state law.
- D. A comedic misunderstanding regarding a lost letter.

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

- A. Prologue
- B. Climax
- C. Denouement
- D. Exposition

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

- A. It slows the pace to allow for deep philosophical reflection.
- B. It creates a sense of heightened tension, urgency, or conflict.

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- C. It informs the audience about historical events long ago.
- D. It indicates that the scene is ending and the lights should fade.

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Fictional planet
- B. Rhyme scheme
- C. Dialect
- D. Stage combat

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

- A. To confuse them about the character's true intentions.
- B. To show how the character interacts with multiple people at a party.
- C. To provide a direct window into a character's private thoughts and motivations.
- D. To give the other actors on stage a chance to speak over them.

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

- A. True
- B. False