

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Scriptwriting Essentials for 10th Grade Playwrights

Students identify foundational script elements and analyze how stage directions and dialogue build dramatic tension in modern theatrical scenes.

1. In a script, what is the primary purpose of the 'inciting incident' within the plot development?

Answer: C) To disturb the protagonist's world and start the central action

The inciting incident is the specific event that kicks off the plot's main conflict and forces the protagonist into action.

2. The underlying meaning or unspoken thoughts of a character that exist beneath the actual spoken dialogue is known as _____.

Answer: C) Subtext

Subtext refers to what the character is feeling or thinking that isn't explicitly stated in the lines they speak.

3. Parentheticals are short instructions placed within dialogue to indicate a specific delivery or physical action for the actor.

Answer: A) True

Parentheticals (e.g., '(whispering)') provide immediate, brief context for how a specific line should be performed.

4. Which playwright is famous for using rhythmic, poetic dialogue and 'the pause' to show tension, as seen in 'The Birthday Party'?

Answer: A) Harold Pinter

Harold Pinter is known for 'Pinteresque' dialogue where silence and pauses are just as important as the spoken words.

5. A character's _____ is the specific goal or desire they are trying to achieve in a particular scene.

Answer: B) Objective

The objective is the 'want' that drives a character's actions and dialogue throughout a scene.

6. Stage directions should usually describe every single blink and breath an actor takes on stage.

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Answer: B) False

Stage directions should be concise and focused on significant actions or set requirements, leaving room for the director and actor's interpretation.

7. If a play like 'A Raisin in the Sun' uses specific regional slang and sentence structures, the playwright is primarily using dialogue to establish:

Answer: B) Voice and cultural context

Specific speech patterns, or dialect, help ground characters in a specific time, place, and social background.

8. The structure of a script is often divided into large sections called _____, which are then further divided into scenes.

Answer: D) Acts

Acts are the major units of action in a play, typically signifying a major shift in the narrative or time.

9. In playwriting, 'stakes' refers to the consequences of a character failing to achieve their objective.

Answer: A) True

High stakes ensure the audience is engaged because the character has something significant to lose if they fail.

10. What is the term for a long speech by a single character directed toward other characters on stage?

Answer: B) Monologue

A monologue is an extended speech by one person; unlike a soliloquy, other characters are usually present and listening.