

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Ignite the Spotlight: 7th Grade Scriptwriting Blueprints

Aspiring playwrights build dramatic tension by analyzing subtext and manipulating stage directions to influence audience perception.

1. In Sophocles' 'Antigone', the protagonist faces a choice between obeying the law of the state or the law of her gods. This is best described as which element of plot development?

Answer: C) Moral Dilemma

A moral dilemma occurs when a character must choose between two conflicting values, driving the play's internal and external tension.

2. When a playwright writes instructions in the script like '[Long pause as the shadow looms over the door]', they are using _____ to establish the play's atmosphere.

Answer: B) stage directions

Stage directions provide non-verbal information about pacing, mood, and movement that dialogue alone cannot convey.

3. True or False: In a well-structured play, the 'Exposition' segment is primarily used to resolve the main conflict and show the character's final transformation.

Answer: B) False

Exposition occurs at the beginning of the play to introduce settings, characters, and background information, not at the resolution.

4. In Lorraine Hansberry's 'A Raisin in the Sun', the Younger family's different dreams for a better life create tension. How does the playwright use dialogue to reveal these character motivations?

Answer: B) Through specific word choices that highlight their unique values

Strong character creation relies on distinct voices and vocabulary that signal to the audience what each character cares about most.

5. A character speaking their inner thoughts aloud alone on stage, such as Prospero in 'The Tempest', is performing a/an _____.

Answer: C) soliloquy

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A soliloquy is a specific type of speech where a character reveals their private reflections to the audience while alone.

6. Which of the following describes 'subtext' in playwriting dialogue?

Answer: B) The hidden meaning or emotion behind a line

Subtext is what is implied rather than stated, allowing actors to convey complex emotions through simple lines.

7. True or False: A 'foil' is a character whose traits are purposely contrasted with another character to highlight specific qualities of the protagonist.

Answer: A) True

Playwrights use foils to sharpen the audience's understanding of the main character's personality and choices.

8. In Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest', the use of witty, fast-paced exchanges serves which dramatic purpose?

Answer: B) To establish a satirical and humorous tone

The rhythm and style of dialogue (diction) are key tools playwrights use to set the genre and mood of the performance.

9. When the audience knows that a character is walking into a trap, but the character does not, the playwright is using _____.

Answer: A) dramatic irony

Dramatic irony occurs when the audience's knowledge exceeds that of the characters, creating suspense or humor.

10. True or False: A 'Dynamic Character' is someone who stays exactly the same from the beginning of the play to the final curtain.

Answer: B) False

A dynamic character undergoes significant internal change or growth; a character who stays the same is known as a 'static' character.