

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Scripting the Stage: A 6th Grade Playwriting Page-Turner

Apply your analytical skills to decode subtext, manipulate dramatic irony, and structure scripts that move an audience beyond the final curtain.

1. In a script, when a character speaks their inner thoughts aloud alone on stage to reveal their true motivations, this technique is called a:

Answer: B) Soliloquy

A soliloquy is a dramatic device used to reveal a character's internal conflict or hidden plans directly to the audience while no other characters are present.

2. When a playwright includes instructions like '(hastily hiding the letter)' within the dialogue, they are utilizing _____, which help the director and actors visualize the physical action.

Answer: A) Parentheticals

Parentheticals are short stage directions found within a character's speech to indicate how a line is delivered or a specific brief action.

3. True or False: 'Subtext' refers to the literal meaning of the words spoken by a character in a scene.

Answer: B) False

Subtext is the underlying meaning or 'unspoken' emotion behind the dialogue, not the literal words themselves.

4. Which element of a play's structure represents the 'point of no return' where the protagonist must make a choice that leads directly to the climax?

Answer: C) The Crisis

The crisis is the peak of the rising action where the conflict reaches a turning point, forcing a decision that determines the outcome of the climax.

5. To create a 'Three-Dimensional Character,' a playwright must establish a clear _____, which is what the character specifically wants to achieve within a scene.

Answer: B) Objective

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An objective is the goal a character is pursuing; having clear objectives makes characters feel realistic and drives the plot forward.

6. True or False: Dramatic Irony occurs when the audience knows something important that a character on stage does not know.

Answer: A) True

Dramatic irony increases suspense by involving the audience in a secret that the characters are unaware of, often leading to tragic or comedic results.

7. In the play 'A Raisin in the Sun' by Lorraine Hansberry, the conflict is driven by the family's different views on how to spend an insurance check. This type of conflict is best described as:

Answer: D) Man vs. Man

While there are societal themes, the primary engine of the plot is the clashing desires (objectives) between individual family members, which is Man vs. Man conflict.

8. The ____ is the final part of a play's plot where the loose ends are tied up and the world of the play returns to a new sense of normalcy.

Answer: B) Denouement

The denouement (or resolution) follows the climax and settles the various threads of the plot.

9. True or False: A play's 'Theme' is the same thing as its 'Plot'.

Answer: B) False

The plot is the sequence of events (what happens), while the theme is the underlying message or central idea the playwright wants to convey (the 'why').

10. If a playwright uses 'Ensemble' writing, they are focusing on:

Answer: C) A group of characters who have equal importance to the story

Ensemble pieces prioritize the group dynamic and collective storytelling rather than focusing on a single protagonist.