

SMART™ Lesson

Literature: Drama

Analyzing Character Motivations

In drama, characters are the driving force behind the story. Understanding a character's motivations is key to understanding what drives the plot forward. Let's take a closer look at character motivations and how we can analyze them in drama.

What are Character Motivations?

Character motivations are the reasons why a character acts in a certain way or makes certain decisions. These motivations are often shaped by the character's experiences, emotions, or beliefs. Motivations can be explicit, meaning they are directly stated in the text, or implicit, meaning they are implied through the character's actions or dialogue.

Why Analyze Character Motivations?

Analyzing character motivations can help us to better understand the character, their choices and actions, and the overall story. It can also help us to see the themes and messages that the author is trying to convey through the character.

How to Analyze Character Motivations

- Pay attention to the character's actions and behaviors. These can give clues about their motivations.
- Observe the character's relationships with other characters. Are their actions influenced by their relationships?
- Examine the character's dialogue. What do they say and how do they say it?
- Consider the character's backstory. How have their experiences shaped their motivations?

Questions to Consider

1. What motivates the protagonist in the drama you are studying?
2. Are the protagonist's motivations explicit or implicit? How do you know?
3. How do the antagonist's motivations conflict with those of the protagonist?
4. What message do you think the author is trying to convey through the motivations of the characters?