

SMART™ Lesson

Literature: Drama - Analyzing Dialogue and Stage Directions

Introduction

Drama is a type of literature that is meant to be performed on a stage. It is different from other types of literature because it has dialogue and stage directions. Dialogue is the words that the characters say, and it is written with quotation marks. Stage directions are instructions for the actors, director, and stage crew. They are written in italics and describe what is happening on the stage.

Analyzing Dialogue

When you are analyzing dialogue, it is important to pay attention to what the characters are saying and how they are saying it. You can learn a lot about a character based on the words they say and how they say them. Here are some things to consider:

- How does the character feel about what they are saying?
- What is the character's tone of voice?
- How do the other characters respond?
- Is the character being honest, or are they lying?

Analyzing Stage Directions

When you are analyzing stage directions, it is important to pay attention to what is happening on the stage. These directions can give you important information about the setting, the characters' actions, and the tone of the play. Here are some things to consider:

- What is the setting? Where is the scene taking place?
- What are the characters doing? How are they moving around the stage?
- What props are being used? What do they represent?
- What is the overall mood of the scene?

Worksheet Questions

1. What is drama?
2. What is dialogue?
3. What are stage directions?
4. What can you learn about characters from their dialogue?
5. What is the purpose of stage directions?

6. What are some things to consider when analyzing dialogue?
7. What are some things to consider when analyzing stage directions?
8. Pick a favorite play or movie and analyze a scene from it. Describe the dialogue and stage directions and what they reveal about the characters and setting.

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Analyzing Dialogue and Stage Directions

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