

DRAMA
Assignment Sheet – Fall 2011, Week 2

Lesson Given: Sept. 22, 2011
Lesson Due: Sept. 29, 2011

Goal: To gain an overview of the play and each student's role in it; to learn the basics of analyzing a play; to begin character analysis

Assignments:

Read and understand the Teamwork handout

Highlight your lines

Watch the movie "A Christmas Carol" starring George C. Scott as Scrooge

Write a short paragraph describing your character – Use the Character Questions to tell about your character. Don't try to model your character on the movie character, but use him/her for ideas and inspiration.

DRAMA
Assignment Sheet – Fall 2011, Week 3

Lesson Given: Sept. 29, 2011
Lesson Due: Oct. 6, 2011

Goal: To learn more about your character and his/her role in the play

Assignments:

Memorize your lines for Scenes 1 & 2

Observe people; try to find someone you think your character would be like and watch them for 10-15 minutes.

Write a paragraph about the person you watched. What did they do? How did they act? What about them do you want to imitate for your character?

Write cue sheets for your character through Scene 2, or your character's section of the play.

DRAMA – CHARACTERIZATION

Answer the following questions for your character. Use a separate sheet of paper.

1. What is the purpose/theme of the story?
2. What is your character's purpose in this story? How does your character help to demonstrate the theme?
3. Describe your character in detail. (Hair color, eye color, height, age, tall/short, basic personality such as bubbly, shy, pushy, generous, thoughtful, etc.)
4. What *exactly* does your character say about him/herself in the play? (if anything)
5. What *exactly* does any/every other character say about you?
6. What *exactly* does your character say about at least 2 other characters?
7. Describe your character's relationship with Pollyanna (for Pollyanna, describe your relationship w/ your Aunt Polly).
8. What situation(s) in your own life are similar to what your character has experienced? How well do you remember these situations? How can you use this experience in portraying your character? What about your character is unfamiliar to you, or hard to portray?
9. What does your character want more than anything in this story? How is he/she trying to get this?
10. Does your character change by the end of the play? In what way(s)?

TEAMWORK

Teamwork is very important in theater. Unless you are performing a monologue, your performance will rely, in part, on your fellow actors. Do not let your team down by missing rehearsals, not doing a job you have been assigned, or being absent for the final performance.

Keys to Teamwork:

- 1) Complete assignments on time, especially writing cue sheets. Use the cue sheets to memorize your lines and actions on cue.
- 2) Memorizing lines on schedule. When you fail to have your lines memorized on time, you slow up the entire cast and production.
- 3) Pay attention to where you are supposed to be at all times. Know when it is your turn to speak, and be quiet when someone else is speaking.
- 4) Bring your costume and props on time, and get comfortable working with them.
- 5) Put in the time and energy needed.
- 6) Help the team locate, build, or create props, scenery, or costumes for the entire cast.
- 7) Help the team with non-acting jobs like painting, posters, or prompting.
- 8) Encourage each other! This is something we do well, so keep up the good work!

CUE SHEETS

Write out all your lines & actions with the preceding few words/actions as in the sample below. This has several benefits. First, writing your lines will help lock the words in your head. Second, this is an easy tool to help rehearse at home as no one needs to leaf through the book to find your parts; simply have someone read the cue and you respond with your line/action. Third, during rehearsal, you will stay more focused on the play because you will have to listen for your cue, not just read along. **Cue sheets are required this year.**

Example: (cue sheet for Artaban)

Abgarus: ...what you propose?

Artaban: I have considered. And I am prepared. I believe the sign will come.

Abgarus: ...it does not?

Artaban: If the new Star shines not, I stay in Ecbatana. If it shines, I ride – this night.

Marsena: But the cost?

Artaban: That, too, I have considered. (Reaches into folds of tunic and takes out 3 jewels which he shows to the others)