

Group Drama Project Introduction to Literature Spring 2019 Yolande Brener

We started with 15 characters in class on Wednesday. To make our play more manageable, we are going to combine some of these characters to create 5 main characters. Other characters can have non-speaking parts. Each main character will draw on elements from sections of our textbook. For these purposes, the Teacher's character can draw on the instructional chapters at the back of the textbook, and the four students can draw on elements from each of the four genres. Since we have not yet studied the Research section, we will have to draw on our existing knowledge of reading or writing research essays for this part.

Step One: Create Composite Characters

On Friday you will each have three characteristics written down for the name you chose. We will combine these traits to form composite characters and choose names for them.

Character 1: Teacher

Character 2: Characteristics of Fiction

Character 3: Poetic Characteristics

Character 4: Characteristics of Drama

Character 5: Characteristics of Research

Step Two: Story Arc:

Each group of two or three will take one section of the story. We will discuss the details of what will happen in class. Then we will divide into groups of two or three people each, and write one scene per group. The basic outline will be as follows:

Act 1

Scene I (Group 1)

Establish main characters, establish what main protagonist (teacher) wants, establish what is preventing main character (teacher) from getting what he/she wants.

Act I

Scene II (Group 2)

Character 2 and Character 3 have a disagreement or discussion, either with each other or with Character 1.

Act I

Scene III (Group 3)

Character 4 finds a way to win out over Characters 1, 2, and 3.

Act 2

Scene I (Group 4)

Character 1 and Character 5 make a plan.

Act 2

Scene II (Group 5)

Characters 2, 3, and 4 have a disagreement with Character 5.

Act 2

Scene III (Group 6 or All)

Conclusion. Everyone wins? Everyone loses? You decide.

Step Three:

We will read our sequence and decide what works and what we could improve. We will add revisions. Remember to think about the six elements of drama for each of your scenes:

1. Diction: How are our characters speaking? How does their style of speaking differ? How can you tell one from the other?

2. Melody: Is there any music? Are there any background noises? Does anyone sing?

3. Spectacle: What is the setting? Are there any lighting effects, costumes or props?

4. Thought: Is there any moral or message to this play?

5. Characters: Who are the main characters and what do they want? Are our main characters human or nonhuman? Just because a character is a teacher or a student doesn't mean that character can't be a shape shifter or an alien or some other being.

6. Plot: What happens in the six scenes of this play? Let's make it follow a traditional arc:

1. A main character wants something but there is an obstacle preventing the acquisition of said desire.

2. Main character triumphs over obstacle and appears to gain object of desire.

3. Bigger obstacle defeats main character.

4. Steps two and three can repeat, until:

5: Main character succeeds beyond all expectation If we want a nontraditional or different ending, the main character can fail, or we can leave an open ending.

Step Four:

Each group continues working on their scene for homework. We can create a Google Document for group work.

Step Five:

We do a final reading/performance. Each person writes their own reflection of their part in the group project.