



ANALYZING THE STRUCTURE OF DRAMA

RL.7.5. - Analyze how a drama's form or structure contributes to its meaning.

I can analyze how a drama's form or structure contributes to its meaning. (RL.7.5.)

Reading A Drama

Look at this photo of the actors of the play, "Noises Off."

*How do you think the props, costumes, and mannerisms the actors portray help to tell the story they are performing?



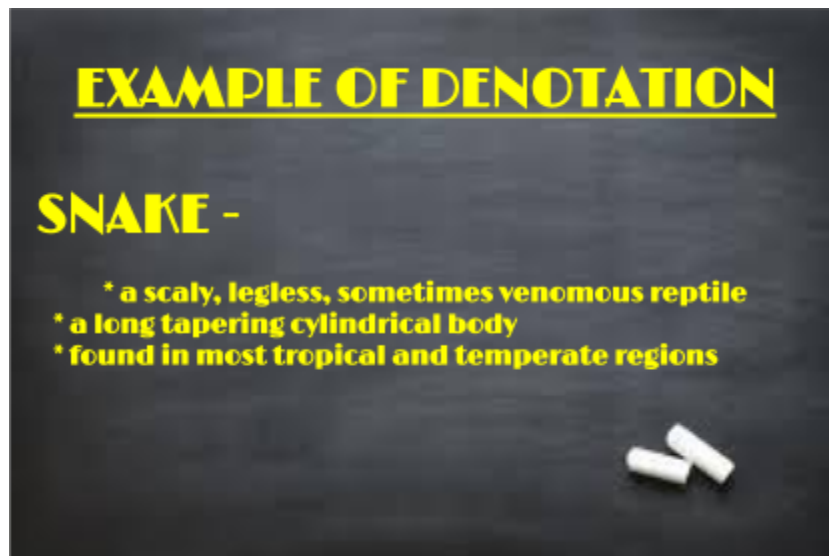
Essential Question: How does presenting a story in a dramatic form influence the way it is told?

Important Elements of a Drama



Dramatic Irony – a situation in which the audience knows something that the characters do not.

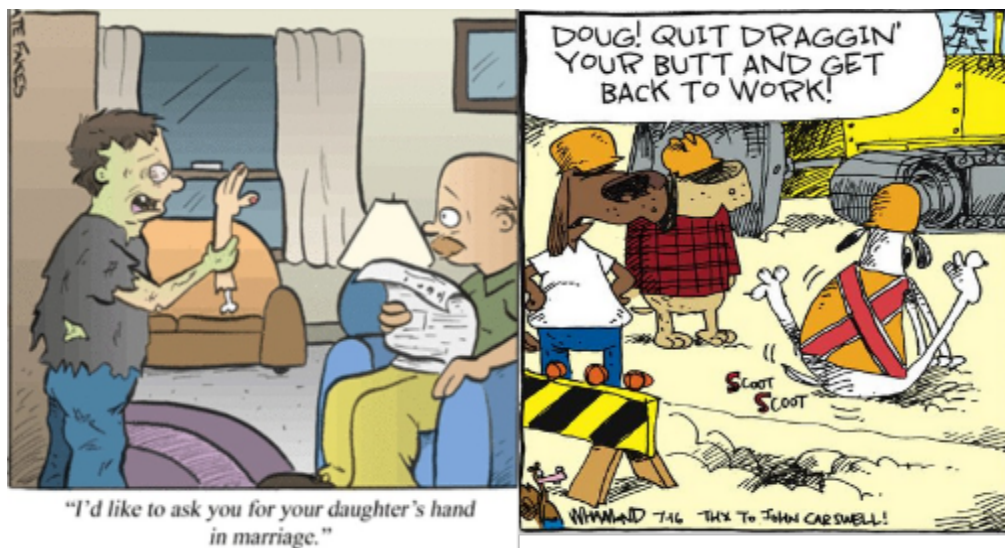
Denotation – words that are similar in their dictionary meanings.



Connotation – the meaning that a word suggests or implies.

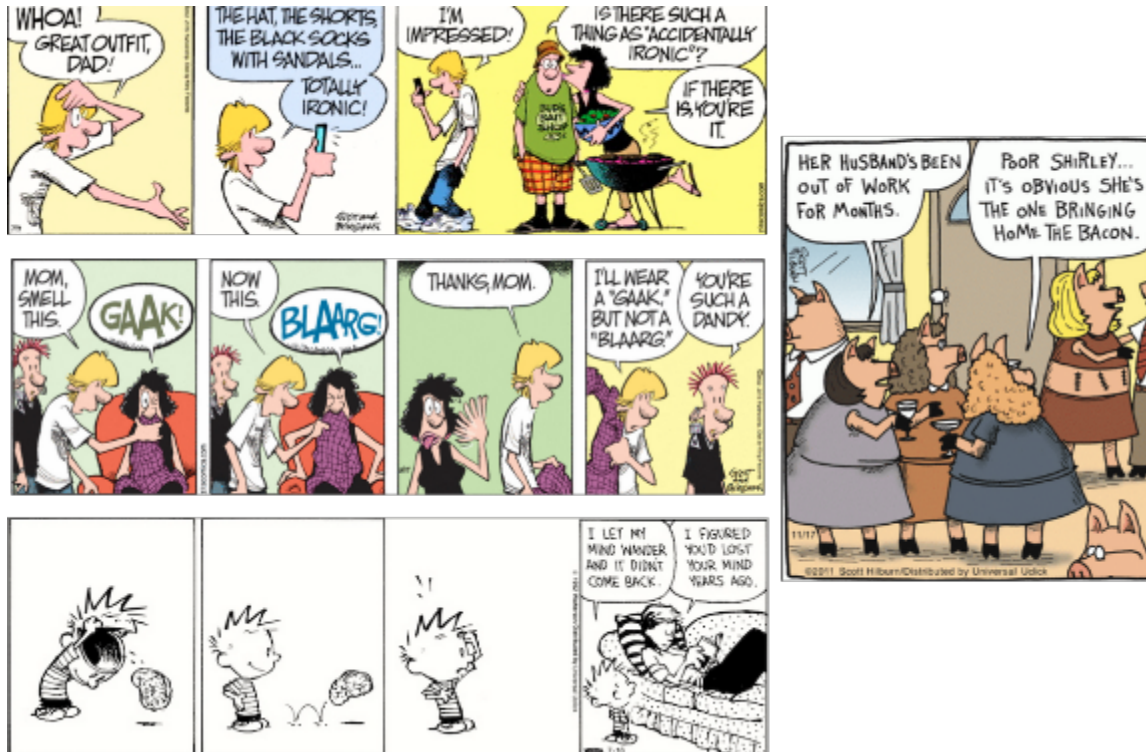


Literal Language – authors use literal language when they want the reader to understand their words exactly as they are written.



Figurative Language – authors use figurative language to make their writing more interesting. By using figurative language, words take on deeper meanings and the reader will have to infer what the author is really trying to say.





Dramatic Structure – plays are organized into one or more acts. Each act is made up of several scenes. Scenes often change when the setting or the characters on the stage change.

Stage Directions – tell the actors where to enter and exit and as well as how to say their lines.

Dialogue – the lines each actor is supposed to say in the drama make up the dialogue. Lines of dialogue appear after the character's name and sometimes after a stage direction.

Analyzing the Structure of Drama

There are many ways to tell a story. For example, a story can be told in a book, in a movie, or through a play. All of these forms contain **characters**, **setting**, and **plot**, (just like reading fiction) but a play has some special characteristics. First of all, a play, or drama, **relies on dialogue**, the characters' words, to move the plot forward. Dramas also contain **stage directions**, which describe the setting and explain what the actors should do or how they should speak or behave. Dramas are organized into **scenes**, which are like chapters in a book, and scenes are grouped into **acts**.

Read the beginning of the play, *Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom* by Wade Bradford.

Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom

Act 1, Scene 1

The scene takes place at the bus stop, but the story will soon be taking the characters to many different parts of their school. Backdrops and set pieces might be a nice touch to indicate the different locations. However, a blank stage, strategically placed chairs, and the audience's imagination could serve just as well.]

A girl stands on stage, a backpack slung over her shoulder. She is waiting for the bus. A boy enters, still tired from getting up at the crack of dawn.

JAMIE: Hi Dwayne.

DWAYNE: Oh. Hi Jamie.

JAMIE: What have you been up to?

DWAYNE: Oh. You know. Waiting for the bus.

1. Underline details in the stage directions and the dialogue that tell you something about the setting and characters.
2. Fill out the chart about what you have learned about the setting and characters.

SETTING	CHARACTERS	PLOT
* * *	*Jamie - *Dwayne -	*

Read the rest of the play and answer the questions.

JAMIE: I mean besides that, silly.

DWAYNE: Oh yeah. Right. Uh... Nothing. How about you?

JAMIE: I tried a new cereal today. It has cornflakes and blueberries.

DWAYNE: Wow.

JAMIE: Yeah. Wow. It's sad that a new breakfast food is going to be the highlight of my day.

DWAYNE: At least you had breakfast. I forgot.

JAMIE: Did you ever imagine our lives would be this dull?

DWAYNE Well, maybe something fun will happen at school today.

JAMIE: School? Fun?

They both laugh.

DWAYNE: I know, I was just joking.

JAMIE: You know, sometimes I miss elementary school. Remember in second grade? Every day, after lunch, you and I would play frisbee. We'd make believe it was a spaceship?

DIALOGUE:

What does this dialogue reveal about Jamie and Dwayne's relationship?

DWAYNE: No, you'd pretend it was a spaceship, I'd pretend it was my viking shield.

JAMIE: Why don't we do stuff like that anymore?

DWAYNE: Because one day I tried to beat the world record frisbee throw and we never saw it again.

JAMIE: I mean, why don't we ever -- I don't know -- your shoe's untied.

DWAYNE: (Starting to tie his shoe.) Thanks. I guess this is what happens when you get to the 8th Grade (or whatever grade the actors are in). The world starts to become boring.

JAMIE: Yep. We're growing up. No more recess. No more adventure.

MONTANA: Did someone say adventure?

Montana Jones enters. He is a rugged explorer, wearing a fedora, and a leathery jacket. He might be covered in spider webs. He carries an old looking map, torn and burnt at the edges.

DWAYNE: Huh?

MONTANA: Aha, fellow explorers!

JAMIE: Uh, we're not explorers.

MONTANA: You mean, you're from around here?

DWAYNE: Yeah.

MONTANA: Perfect. The local natives. Exactly what I need to get back on the right path.

JAMIE: The right path to where?

PROPELLING ACTION:

How can you tell what Montana says at the end of the scene will propel the action forward?

CHARACTERIZATION:

Describe the character, Montana.

How do the stage directions help you understand more about Montana?

MONTANA: To the ultimate treasure?

DWAYNE: In this town?

MONTANA: Yes. In a place called a "ROBERT BLUE MIDDLE SCHOOL."

JAMIE: That's the name of our school.

MONTANA: You mean you have been there??? There's no time to lose; show me on the map.

DWAYNE: I don't know how to give directions. We just wait for the bus and it takes us there.

JAMIE: Who are you anyway?

MONTANA: The name's Jones. Montana Jones.

DWAYNE: Don't you mean--

MONTANA: No, you're thinking of my brother. I am way more handsome and far less intelligent. So, when does this so called bus arrive?

JAMIE: There it is now.

A Bus Driver and Students enter. They can be carrying a 2-D cut out of the school bus, or they might simply be pantomiming riding on the bus. In either case, the actor playing the Bus Driver should be making loud motor noises as they "drive" onto the stage, rather slowly.

MONTANA: It's coming straight for us! Get out of the way!

Jumping in exaggerated slow motion, Montana pulls Jamie and Dwayne off to the side. The bus comes to a stop, a good distance from the kids.

MONTANA: I saved your lives.

DWAYNE: Are you crazy? It wasn't even close to us.

MONTANA: Yep. I saved your lives. And now you two owe me a life debt. You can make up for it by becoming explorers and leading me to the treasure.

BUS DRIVER: (Speaking in a gruff, old lady voice that's hard to understand.) Hurry up and get on yer gol' dern kids! I dern't have all day, you murglefergle-bins.

DWAYNE: We better do what Mrs. Grunkle says.

ACT 1, SCENE 2

MONTANA: Who's Mrs. Grunkle?

JAMIE: The lady behind the steering wheel. Half the time she's really mean.

DWAYNE: And the other half we have no idea what she's saying.

BUS DRIVER: Hey, kids! Giddonna this gol dern busslin begussnuh!

DWAYNE: We better go.

JAMIE: Dwayne, you still haven't tied your shoe.

DWAYNE: Oh yeah.

BUS DRIVER: That's enough lollygagging you gol' dern raggamuffins!

JAMIE: Oh no! She's lost her temper!

MONTANA: It's okay. I speak Bus Driver. (Clearing her throat.) Hey there yer gol dern murrfaflurrrfin gurffin bergin!

BUS DRIVER: (Finding whatever she says very amusing.) Bwahahahaha!

MONTANA: (Showing her the map.) Dyoh know where da flurginbergin durgin is?

BUS DRIVER: Sure! Getdawndabus and I'll takeyarightdare!

MONTANA: (To Jamie and Dwayne.) She's letting us on.

DWAYNE: Of course she is. That's her job.

DIALOGUE:

What does the dialogue reveal about Mrs. Grunkle?

BUS DRIVER: Shuddup and siddown!

The Bus Driver makes sputtering engine noises, and the bus begins to move, simulated by the kid passengers jostling up and down. There are at least two other students on the bus, Chris and Cody, two girls who are constantly on their smart phones.

CHRIS: Who's your friend, Dwayne? Is it bring your Dork to school day?

CODY: Yuck! Is he all covered in spider webs?

MONTANA: Pipe down, natives. I'm trying to read this map.

DWAYNE: We don't need a map. She takes us the same route every day. It never changes.

BUS DRIVER: Immagonga jonga!

JAMIE: What did she say?

MONTANA: She's changing the route. Taking a detour.

CODY: She's turning left!

CHRIS: According to Google Maps, that's straight down Pothole Avenue!

JAMIE: That's filled with potholes!

MONTANA: Hang on! Things are about to get bumpy!

The Bus Driver, the students, and Montana simulate bouncing up and down on the bus as it drives over pot holes. In slow motion, Chris and Cody act as though they are tumbling out the back door of the bus. Montana reaches out for them.

MONTANA: (Slow motion.) Grab my hand and don't let go!

Time suddenly shifts back to normal as the Bus Driver makes a brake sound effect.

STAGE DIRECTIONS:

What other clues do the stage directions give the reader about Mrs. Grunckle?

BUS DRIVER: We're here! Everybody geddoff!

MONTANA: (To Cody and Chris) You two owe me your lives.

CODY: Whatever.

Cody and Chris quickly exit.

MONTANA: Lady Grunckle. Farewell.

He kisses the Bus Driver's hand. She sneezes loudly onto his hat.

MONTANA: Hmm. She must be allergic to romance. Smooth sailing, Grunckle!

The Bus Driver makes engine noises, and then "drives" off stage.

DWAYNE: Wow. She almost looked happy.

JAMIE: Come on, guys! We're going to be late for science class.

MR. SHALE: You're already late. Please take your seats.

Mr. Shale, the Science Teacher, enters. Cody and Chris (and perhaps other students) bring in chairs and take their seats.

Note: If it is appropriate, the director may change the names of any of the teacher characters to match the actual teachers at his/her school.

CODY: (Looking at her smart phone.) Did you see what Michelle posted?

CHRIS: I'm checking right now.

MR. SHALE: Students, the sooner we stop talking the sooner we can start learning.

MONTANA: (Excited, sitting in chair, raising arms like he's on a roller coaster.) LEARNING!
(Everyone stares at him.) Sorry. Got excited.

MR. SHALE: Yes, well, today we will be learning about the anatomy of various plants and flowers. Let me just get PowerPoint up and running.

MONTANA: (Moving between Dwayne and Jamie.) Did you hear that, explorers? We're studying plants and flowers. That's perfect. According to this map, we're supposed to journey through the maze of man-eating plants in the Forest of Broken Glass.

DWAYNE: We're not journeying anywhere.

JAMIE: This is science class. We just be quiet and look at the screen.

MR. SHALE: Enough talking. Be quiet and look at the screen. This is a photograph of a rare jungle orchid.

MONTANA: (Raising his hand.) Ooh, ooh, I have a question for the witch doctor.

MR. SHALE: Science teacher.

MONTANA: Sorry, I get those mixed up. Is this orchid a man eating plant?

MR. SHALE: Uh, no.

MONTANA: Aha, so it just eats females.

ACT 1, SCENE 3

MR. SHALE: What? No--

MONTANA: My next question, when can we see these plants for real?

MR. SHALE: My PowerPoint presentation isn't good enough for you?

MONTANA: No, it's great, I'm just trying to get to this spot on the map. (Shows him the map).

MR. SHALE: The Forest of Broken-- look, we don't have any forests in our school, and the only place where there are any orchids is inside the school greenhouse.

JAMIE: Our school has a greenhouse?

DWAYNE: How come we never go there?

CONNOTATION:

In the last four lines of the scene, a connotation is used? What is it?

MR. SHALE: Most of the windows were shattered a few years ago. Some delinquent hit it with a frisbee.

MONTANA: Of course! The Forest of Broken Glass! Can we go there now?

JAMIE: Yeah? Can we go on a field trip?

MR. SHALE: We can't just up and go on a field trip. I've got a syllabus to follow.

MONTANA: Then why don't you let us go on the field trip, and you can stay here and study this. **(Gives him his hat).**

MR. SHALE: Why would I want your hat?

MONTANA: Look closely.

Mr. Shale looks at it with a magnifying glass or microscope.

MONTANA: I think you'll find an amazing scientific discovery.

MR. SHALE: What is this substance?

DWAYNE: Mrs. Grunckle sneezed on his hat.

MR. SHALE: Bus driver boogers! These are incredibly rare.

MONTANA: Then you stay here and study them. We've got a date with some people eating plants!

MR. SHALE: **(Still fascinated by the hat.)** Okay, have fun. Stay safe.

MONTANA: Come on, everybody! Field trip!

Montana marches, pulling along Chris and Cody, who are still consumed with their smart phones. Dwayne and Jamie follow along. The five actors march in place as crew members/other actors, move the chairs and bring out set pieces for the next location: the green house. This can be established by flower puppets that can be made with dishwashing gloves, glue, and whatever arts and crafts supplies are at your disposal.

DWAYNE: Do you know where you're going?

MONTANA: No. But the map does.

JAMIE: I've never been to this part of the school before. Cody and Chris, isn't this amazing?

CODY: No. It's terrible.

CHRIS: There's no wi-fi here. Now we have to interact with the real world.

MONTANA: Here we are. The Forest of the Broken Glass. According to map, this leads us to the Library of Loneliness.

JAMIE: Look at these plants. They're moving.

MONTANA: They've grown wild. Let's be careful.

DWAYNE: Why? Are these things dangerous?

The plant puppets giggle.

MONTANA: Well, they shouldn't be. Your teacher said that they weren't man eating plants. (Takes a flower, puts it in jacket).

One of the puppet plants grabs onto Dwayne.

DWAYNE: Help! It's eating me! (More plants grabs onto him).

MONTANA: I forgot. You're a boy, not a man! Come on, Jamie! We've got to save your boyfriend!

JAMIE: What? He's not my boyfriend! We're just friends! Not that I wouldn't mind -- I mean, it's not that I don't like him, but we--

DWAYNE: Can we talk about this later?!

They pull him free. Plants grab onto Chris and Cody.

CHRIS: Oh gross? What are these things?

CODY: They are totally trying to gobble us up!

MONTANA: All right, plants! Let them go! Don't make me use my whip.

The puppet plants cower away, freeing Cody and Chris.

MONTANA: There, that's the second time I saved your lives. Not even a thank you?

CODY and CHRIS: Whatever.

DWAYNE: Now where are we?

(By now all the plants have exited and books on shelves have taken their place.)

MONTANA: We made it! We're inside the Library of Loneliness.

JAMIE: Why is it called that?

LIBRARIAN: Oh, I'm so lonely!

JAMIE: That's Ms. Marion the Librarian.

DWAYNE: I've never seen her before.

LIBRARIAN: That's because hardly anyone comes to visit me in the library. It's such a lonely place now that most of my students no longer have noses in books. Instead, they are glued to those electronic traps.

CODY and CHRIS have been texting ever since they entered the library.

CODY: (Not looking up.) Huh? Did you say something?

CHRIS: (Not looking up). If you're going to lecture us, can you just send us an email.

ACT 1, SCENE 4

JAMIE: I love books. I read them all the time on my Kindle.

LIBRARIAN: Ugh. Kindles. I-Pads. Computers! Whatever happened to good old fashioned chop down a tree and press it into paper books? (She hands one to Dwayne, blowing dust off the cover.)

DWAYNE: Ah! My eyes!

JAMIE: My allergies.

MONTANA: Now, Miss Marion, I would love to spend the entire afternoon in this beautiful library debating the pros and cons of the electronic age versus traditional print, but I am currently on an adventure. And according to my map, there should be a secret passage someone in this library.

DWAYNE: There's no secret passage in the library!

LIBRARIAN: There certainly is.

JAMIE: What?! Will you show us?

LIBRARIAN: I certainly will. But only if you can prove yourself a worthy reader.

CODY: (Still texting.) We read stuff all the time!

CHRIS: (Still texting.) And we write stuff too! L.O.L!

CODY: R.o.l.f!

LIBRARIAN: I have no idea what those two are saying.

CHRIS: O.M.G. you're so O.L.D.

LIBRARIAN: Perhaps you are not up to the challenge.

JAMIE: I'm up to it! I'm up to it!

LIBRARIAN: I will ask you one question. If you answer correctly, I will reveal the secret passage.

MONTANA: And what if she answers wrong?

LIBRARIAN: Then she will remain here, organizing the books on the lonely library shelves for the rest of her life.

DWAYNE: For the rest of her life?

LIBRARIAN: Or until the end of the school day, whichever comes first.

JAMIE: I am ready.

LIBRARIAN: Then let the challenge begin. Behold, three of the most popular books. Harry Potter. A young wizard in glasses steps out, holding a book.

WIZARD: Greetings, young muggles.

LIBRARIAN: Twilight.

A pale faced teenage vampire steps out holding his book.

VAMPIRE: Hi. My name's Edward. I'm a sparkly vampire.

LIBRARIAN: And "The Hobbit."

A short, hobbit looking character walks out, holding his book.

HOBBIT: Hello. I'm a Hobbit.

(Optional: There could be more than one Hobbit character.)

LIBRARIAN: Now, tell me, young explorer, which of these novels was published first.

DWAYNE: That's easy! The Harry Potter movie came out first. Then the Twilight movie. And then the Hobbit movie!

JAMIE: Dwayne, those are movies, not books.

MONTANA: Good point. We better let her figure this out on her own.

VAMPIRE: Pick me. I'm the right choice.

WIZARD: Don't listen to him.

VAMPIRE: Shut up, four eyes.

WIZARD: You shut up, pasty face!

VAMPIRE: Why don't you make me?

HOBBIT: Let's not fight, good friends.

VAMPIRE: You got a funny scar on your head.

WIZARD: That's it! Avada Kedavra! *(Zaps the Vampire with his wand).*

VAMPIRE: Agh! You killed me! *(Falls down.)* Wait. I'm a vampire. I'm already dead. *(Gets back up).*

MONTANA: You fictional characters better behave. Don't make me use my whip.

JAMIE: Okay, first of all, let me say, that you're all fun books to read. But I remember my dad telling me he read the Hobbit when he was a kid. So that's my final answer. The Hobbit.

LIBRARIAN: Correct! The Hobbit was written by J. R. R. Tolkien and published in 1937.

The book characters turn, forming a wall, backs facing the audience.

CODY: Wow.

CHRIS: Talk about O.L.D.

LIBRARIAN: Well done, Jamie. And now, as promised, I will reveal the secret passage.

With a motion of her hand, the Book characters separate. As they do so, they make a sound effect as if a creaking door is opening.

MONTANA: You did it! Good work, Jamie! And thank you, Miss Librarian, my friends and I promise to visit you more often so you won't be so lonely. Right, explorers?

CODY and CHRIS: Whatever.

DWAYNE: I'll be back tomorrow. Do you have any comic books?

ACT 1, SCENE 5

They begin marching down the "secret passage."

JAMIE: Where does this lead?

DWAYNE: And why does it smell so bad?

CODY: Ugh! What is that stink?

CHRIS: It's making my eyes water! I can't see my Instagram!

MONTANA: I think I know where the stench is coming from. Look at the map, explorers. (They gather around). This tunnel leads to...

EVERYONE: The Cafeteria!

MONTANA: That's right! The Cafeteria Cave of Creepiness.

DWAYNE: This is horrible! This is why I always bring my lunch to school!

JAMIE: It's not that bad. After all, the cafeteria has improved a lot over the years. They used to serve nothing but junk food and French fries.

DWAYNE: That was so great back then.

JAMIE: Now they only serve healthy food!

DWAYNE: That's what makes it smell so horrible!

MONTANA: I think I hear someone coming. Cody and Chris, scout ahead and tell me what you see.

CODY and CHRIS: (Reluctantly complying.) Whatever.

Cody and Chris move toward the edge of the stage, looking off in the distance. Then, they immediately start texting.

MONTANA: Well? Do you see anything?

CHRIS: We sent you a text.

MONTANA: Thanks. (Looks around, suddenly realizes.) Wait, I don't have a phone.

JAMIE: They're coming!

DWAYNE: It's the lunch lady triplets!

Three lunch ladies enter, carrying large pots or bowls.

MONTANA: So the legends are true!

JAMIE: Legends?

MONTANA: It has been said that no one can get past the Lunch Lady Sisters without tasting all three of their secret recipes.

LUNCH LADIES: *(Stirring a pot like it's a cauldron.)* Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble! Fire burn and chili bubble.

MONTANA: So, who's brave enough for this challenge. I'd volunteer, but my stomach is still queasy from the bus ride.

LUNCH LADY #1: Step forward, if you dare!

LUNCH LADY #2: Who is brave enough to try my new stew? Is it you? *(Pointing to Dwayne.)*

LUNCH LADY #3: Or are you going to make your girl friend go first?

DWAYNE: She's not my girl friend! I mean, she's my friend -- and she's a girl -- but we're not dating -- not that I wouldn't want to -- I mean -- ugh -- Fine! I'll try the stew.

The Lunch Ladies cackle. They offer him a spoonful of the stew. Dwayne plugs his nose and very reluctantly tastes it.

DWAYNE: It's going to be so gross, I just know it is -- *(Tastes it, pleasantly surprised).* Hey! Wow! It tastes really good! Can I have some more?

LUNCH LADY #2: No! You must now try my spaghetti sauce.

DWAYNE: Hmm. I guess I don't mind spaghetti.

LUNCH LADY #2: It's organic!

DWAYNE: Yuck! Why do they have to ruin a perfectly good fattening meal by making everything organic--

Lunch Lady #2 shuts him up by sticking the ladle in his mouth, forcing him to taste.

DWAYNE: What are you -- Hey! Holy meatballs! That's the best sauce I've ever tasted!

LUNCH LADY #2: Glad you like it.

DWAYNE: These are really delicious! I guess it's good to try new things. What's next?

LUNCH LADY #3: I call this one, Kitchen Surprise.

DWAYNE: Let me at it! **(Gobbles up the stuff on the spoon).** It's... It's... Disgusting! It tastes like feet!

CODY: That is so gross.

CHRIS: How do you know what feet taste like?

DWAYNE: **(Sticking his tongue out).** What is in Kitchen Surprise?

LUNCH LADY #3: Whatever falls onto the floor of the kitchen. Surprise!

DWAYNE: I need something to get the taste out of my mouth!

LUNCH LADY #1: This will do the trick! **(Hands him a bottle with red sauce in it).**

DWAYNE: **(Drinks the sauce.)** Ouch! This is tabasco sauce! It feels like my tongue is on fire!

JAMIE: Mr. Montana, you've got to do something!

MONTANA: I think it's finally time to use my whip.

JAMIE: What good is a whip going to do?!

MONTANA: **(Taking something out of his satchel.)** It's not just any kind of whip. It's whip cream! He takes out a can of whipped cream and sprays some into Dwayne's mouth.

DWAYNE: Thank you!

LUNCH LADY #1: You can't do that!

LUNCH LADY #2: That's cheating!

LUNCH LADY #3: Send in the spaghetti monsters!

The spaghetti monsters can be anything as simple as spaghetti drenched hands coming out of the pots, or they could be something as elaborate as kids dressed in spaghetti monster costumes made from lots of yarn.

ACT 1, SCENE 6

The spaghetti monsters attack the kids, grabbing hold of Cody and Chris.

CODY: Let go of me, you pasta freaks!

CHRIS: You're getting spaghetti slime all over my new phone!

CODY: Mine too! Help!

MONTANA: *(Wielding the can of whipped cream.)* Stand back, spaghetti monsters! Don't make me use the whip!

The monsters let go of Cody and Chris. Optional: They could get sprayed with the whipped cream, depending on how messy the director wants things to get. The spaghetti monsters and lunch ladies run away.

Cody and Chris run up and hug Montana.

CODY: Thank you! Thank you so much!

CHRIS: You're our hero!

MONTANA: Why are you thanking me now? I've been saving your lives all day.

CODY: Who cares about saving our lives?

CHRIS: You saved our phones!

The stage darkens.

JAMIE: Hey guys... Where are we now?

DWAYNE: I don't know. It's too dark. I can't tell.

A big booming voice startles them.

VOICE: Who dares to enter my Gymnasium of Doom?

CODY: Oh no! I know that voice!

CHRIS: It's Coach Ogre!

CODY: She can crush an i-phone with her bare hand.

CODY and CHRIS: We're outta here!

Cody and Chris run off stage.

MONTANA: Well, explorers, looks like we found the X that marks the spot. This is my final destination. My last challenge. The place where I'll find the ultimate treasure. Thanks for helping me get here. I understand if you decide to leave, while you have the chance.

DWAYNE: We started on this adventure...

JAMIE: And we're going to finish it. Together. Dwayne, you still haven't tied your shoe.

DWAYNE: Oh yeah. **(Kneels in front of her, to tie his shoe)**. Jamie, there's something I've wanted to ask you.

JAMIE: Yes Dwayne?

MONTANA: Hey, kid. Aren't you a little young to propose?

DWAYNE: That's not what I was going to ask her! I was just going to ask if you wanted to hang out after school. You know, like we used to.

JAMIE: I'd like that.

The Booming voice laughs wickedly.

JAMIE: But first, let's see if we can survive past gym class.

COACH OGRE enters the scene. She is very tough looking. She carries a dodge ball.

COACH: Well, well, well. Montana Jones. I always knew you'd come crawling back into my gymnasium.

JAMIE: You two know each other?

COACH: Oh, yes. We most certainly do.

MONTANA: Our paths have crossed before. I should have known I'd find you here.

COACH: You know me. I'm full of surprises.

She throws the dodge ball, hitting Montana.

MONTANA: Ow.

COACH: And I'm sure you also know that I am stronger, tougher, faster, and smarter than you. Ever since that terrible day, I've never forgiven you. And I've made it my life's ambitious to take away everything you hold dear. Like that ultimate treasure you've been looking for.

MONTANA: Oh yeah? Well, I've got two words for you. Whipped cream! **(He tries to spray. Nothing comes out).** Darn! I'm empty!

COACH: Look at you. You're pathetic. And look at me, in my Gymnasium of Doom! I am the most powerful person in the entire school.

DWAYNE: You're not that powerful.

COACH: Shut up and give me twenty.

DWAYNE: Yes ma'am. **(He does push ups.)**

JAMIE: Hey, leave him alone!

COACH: Give my two laps, pencil legs!

JAMIE: Yes ma'am. **(She jogs around the stage.)**

MONTANA: Don't take it out on Jamie and Dwayne. It's me you want. I'm the one who hurt you.

Dwayne and Jamie stop doing their kid-friendly exercises.

JAMIE: Wait. How could anyone hurt Coach Ogre?

COACH: It was a long, long time ago.

MONTANA: In a school district far, far away.

COACH: It was Junior Prom.

MONTANA: I asked a special girl name Jenny Ogre to be my Prom Date.

ACT 1, SCENE 7

COACH: And I said yes.

MONTANA: And she said yes.

COACH: And then he stood me up! He never even came to my doorstep!

MONTANA: No, I did! But I realized I hadn't brought you flowers, so I drove over to a flower shop. But I got a flat tire. And then a band of Vikings came by looking for their lost shield, and they kidnapped me, and while I was on board their ship we got attacked by pirates and ninjas at the same time.

COACH: Oh, that's what they all say! The truth is, you just didn't want to go out with me! I know you better than you know yourself, Montana Jones. In fact, I know your deepest darkest secret. Your greatest fear! **(Calling off stage.)** Bring 'em out, girls!

Girls in athletic outfits enter, carrying buckets. One or two of them bring out a "Lost and Found" box.

MONTANA: Oh no! Not my greatest fear!

JAMIE: What's in those buckets?

DWAYNE: Are they snakes?

MONTANA: No! Much worse! Jump ropes!

The girls pour jump ropes onto Montana who freaks out.

MONTANA: No! Not jump ropes! Why did it have to be jump ropes?

He cowers down to his knees.

COACH: Finish him off, girls!

The two to four athletic girls begin jumping rope at the same pace. Some are on Montana's left, some are on Montana's right. They close in on him, like walls in a dungeon booby trap.

JAMIE: Mr. Montana! You have to do something!

MONTANA: It's too late for me, kids! Save yourselves!

COACH: That's right! Nothing can save him!

DWAYNE: STOP! You can't do this, Coach. Don't you know why Montana Jones followed his crazy map and journeyed all this way?

COACH: Of course I know. To find the Ultimate Treasure.

DWAYNE: And do you know what that ultimate treasure is?

COACH: What?

DWAYNE: It's you. You're the Ultimate Treasure.

COACH: I am?

MONTANA: She is? I mean -- yes, of course, I found you my... My sweet treasure.

JAMIE: And look, he traveled all this way to bring you back the flower he promised.

Untangling himself from the jump ropes, Montana takes out the flower from his jacket and carefully offers it to the Coach.

COACH: A rare jungle orchid. My favorite kind! Oh, Montana, all is forgiven! This is so beautiful! Come on, girls, we better go put this in some water.

The Coach runs off stage, along with the rest of the athlete girls.

MONTANA: Good job, explorers. Now, to get the ultimate treasure.

DWAYNE: But if it isn't Coach Ogre, then what is it?

MONTANA: According to this map... **(We walks several paces one direction.)** It's can be found exactly... **(He walks several paces in the opposite direction, headed toward the Lost and Found box.)** Right here!

JAMIE: In the lost and found box?

DWAYNE: There's nothing but old junk in there!

MONTANA: No, no, no, my friend. Inside lurks the ultimate treasure.

JAMIE: **(Texting.)** Oh, this is too exciting not to share! Smile! **(Takes a photo of Montana as he is about to open it.)**

MONTANA: Jamie, this is kind of a dramatic and mysterious moment, I don't want everyone to know about it.

Cody and Chris enter.

JAMIE: Don't worry. I only sent it to Cody and Chris.

CODY: And we sent it to the entire school.

The rest of the characters, including the librarian, enter to watch Montana open it up.

LIBRARIAN: Well, hurry up! The suspense is driving us mad!

MONTANA: All right. Here goes.

Dramatic music / sound effect as he opens the box.

MONTANA: Here it is! The ultimate treasure!

He holds up a frisbee disk.

DWAYNE: Hey! That's my frisbee!

MONTANA: No, no, my friend. It may look like a frisbee, but I believe that it's actually an ancient viking shield. Or maybe a flying saucer. Either way, it's the Ultimate Treasure I've been searching for! Thanks, guys.

JAMIE: Well, Dwayne, I guess we're still not too old to go on a crazy adventure now and then.

DWAYNE: Yeah.

MONTANA: And now that you've help me fulfill one of my dreams, I want to help make one of your dreams come true. What's your greatest dream, Dwayne?

DWAYNE: Well, it was to launch the world's longest frisbee throw. But I guess that's kind of silly.

MONTANA: Dwayne, this whole Day has been silly. So why stop now. I want you to have this. (Gives him the frisbee.)

DWAYNE: Really?

MONTANA: That's right. Throw it as hard as you can and break that world record.

DWAYNE: Okay. Here goes!

Optional Dramatic music. Dwayne prepares himself and then throws the frisbee off stage right. Everyone watches in awe.

JAMIE: Look at it fly!

MR. SHALE: It's going!

LIBRARIAN: Going!

COACH: It's gone! What a throw! Why, I bet it makes it all the way around the planet!

From stage left, the frisbee (or one that looks exactly like it) lands on stage, amazing everyone. They stare at it a moment.

JAMIE: My hero!

Everyone cheers. Lights out. The End.

Analyzing the Structure of Drama

Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom

1. What is the setting of each of the scenes in the play, *Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom*?

SCENE 1	SCENE 2	SCENE 3	SCENE 4	SCENE 5	SCENE 6	SCENE 7

2. If you were chosen to direct a stage production of, *Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom*, what tone would the play have? Support your choice of tone with details from the play. How would you make sure the play has that tone when your actors/actresses perform the play?

3. Are any of the characters in the play, *Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom*, alike? Explain.

4. Identify a key line of dialogue in the play, *Montana Jones and the Gymnasium of Doom*, that served to propel the action forward? Explain.

5. Evaluate the author's use of stage directions. How do the stage directions contribute to the meaning of the dialogue? Support your answer with details from the passage.

6. How does presenting a story in a dramatic form influence the way it is told?