

Elements of a Story Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn with Mr. Sbordone's Class
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1	Hey—did anyone do last night's English homework?	13	My favorite characters are funny-looking—like the Grinch, or Muchoo from <u>Mulan</u> .
All	Uh-huh.		
1	Great. Okay, what are the five elements of a story?	14	What the characters do moves the plot forward.
All	Wind, water, fire, earth, and Chicken! [sound effect]	1	The plot? What's that?
1	C'mon you guys!	15	Plot is the series of related events in a literary work.
2	No, the five elements of a story are setting, characters, point of view, plot, and theme, you chicken wings!	1	Oh. Series? Like the World Series?
		All	No, you chicken wing!
All	Oh—those five elements--setting characters, plot, point of view, and theme.	16	The plot is what happens—the story's events. It follows a specific time order.
3	Right—Setting is like a dark forest [sound effect].	1	And that would be?
1	You mean the setting is where the story takes place?	All	Beginning, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution.
All	[sound effect] Ding!	1	Wait! Beginning, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution?
5	Setting is like one of these places:	All	Right!
6	Who-ville	15	Stories are told from a character's point of view.
7	A trailer park	1	What's a point of view?
8	Manhattan	17	The perspective of a character.
9	Lollipop Land	1	Like perspective in art?
10	or Chick Filet.	17	No—a character's viewpoint.
1	Got it. Okay then, next element—what's a character?	1	Point of view? Perspective? Viewpoint?
12	I know that—A character is a person, animal, or personified object that plays a role in the action of a story.	All	How the character sees other people and what happens!
1	What's a personified object?	1	Oh!
12	Like Chip the Teacup in <u>Beauty and the Beast</u> .	15	A story can be told from the first person point of view.
4	“Hey Mommy, look what I can do!” [gesture][sound effect]	6	By one of the characters.
All	Character--person, animal, or personified object--plays a role in the story's action.	15	Yes, and that character will use the pronouns “I,” “Me,” and “My.”
		All	First person point of view—I, Me, My
			Cross my heart, hope to die, stick a needle in my eye!
		2	A story can also be told by someone outside the story.
		1	And what is that called?

3	Third person point of view.	1	Uh-huh.
All	[a rhyming verse] The third person point of view tells the story by using pronouns he, she, they—but never I, me, my!	4	Well, when she was left alone because she went back to save her little brother when her people left the island, the story's theme was Survival! [sound effect][gesture]
1	There's so much to remember, but I think I get it!	5	Oh, also like Julie of the Wolves on the Alaskan tundra!
All	Spoken from your own point of view! [sound effect—applause?]	4	Yes!
1	So I've got setting, characters, plot, and point of view down now. But that's only four elements. What's the fifth?	6	Like "Oranges?"
All	Theme!	7	How can you talk about oranges at a time like this?
7	I know what theme is! [sound effect] It's where the story occurs! [sound effect]	8	It makes me hungry!
All	That's setting!	6	I mean the poem "Oranges!"
8	A theme is the message the author wants to share with the reader.	9	The theme is hard to find in a poem.
9	I thought theme was the underlying idea of a story!	6	But don't you remember the boy and how he gave the oranges because
10	I thought it was the "big idea" about human nature or life!	10	[interrupting] ...because he was a good friend!
11	You're all right! [gesture—"High fives?"] [sound effect]	6	Right, so the poem's theme is Friendship!
All	Theme—the message, the underlying idea, the "big idea."	All	So it that it for "Theme?"
1	Cool. Can you think of an example?	1	[sound effect—Bell rings.]
4	Okay, remember Karana in <u>The Island of the Blue Dolphins</u> ?	11	Gotta run.
		12	Time for sixth period.
		13	See ya after school.
		14	Peace out.
		1	Thanks for your help!