

Words for the Crowd

Notice how speakers change language for audience and setting.

5L3.b “Compare and contrast the varieties of English (e.g., dialects, registers) used in stories, dramas, or poems.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two phrases that sound formal, and circle two phrases that sound casual or informal. Number each speaker you marked so you can compare why the speaker chose those words.

Opening Night

- ① On Saturday, the old train station opened as a community theater. Maya stood beside the ticket table while Mr. Reed tested the microphone. “Good afternoon, guests,” he said. “Please take your seats. The performance will begin at two o’clock.” Maya straightened the programs. Her cousin Leo hurried in, holding a paper bag of props for the show.
- ② “I got the lanterns,” Leo whispered. “Where do you want ’em?” Maya pointed toward the stage. “Set them by the blue curtain, please. We need them for the storm scene.” Leo grinned. “Got it. I’ll be back in a sec.” He dashed away before Maya could ask him to slow down near the crowded doorway.
- ③ When the lights dimmed, Mr. Reed spoke again. “Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for supporting our neighborhood theater. We are pleased to present *The Lantern Keeper*.” In the wings, Leo nudged Maya and murmured, “This is gonna be awesome.” Maya smiled, but she stayed quiet until the show began because the audience was listening closely nearby.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Compare Mr. Reed’s announcement with Leo’s question about the lanterns. Write one formal phrase and one informal phrase from the passage.

2 Which speaker uses the most formal register? Give one detail from the passage that supports your answer.

3 Why does Mr. Reed use formal language while Leo uses informal language? Use the audience for each speaker in your answer.

4 Compare Maya’s language with Leo’s language in paragraph 2. How does Maya sound different?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a short scene of 4 to 6 sentences at a school event. Have one character speak formally to a group and another character speak informally to a friend, then explain why the two characters use different registers.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline two phrases that sound formal, and circle two phrases that sound casual or informal. Number each speaker you marked so you can compare why the speaker chose those words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Compare Mr. Reed's announcement with Leo's question about the lanterns. Write one formal phrase and one informal phrase from the passage.	Mr. Reed says, "Good afternoon, guests" or "Please take your seats." Leo says, "Where do you want 'em?"
2	Which speaker uses the most formal register? Give one detail from the passage that supports your answer.	Mr. Reed uses the most formal register. He says "Ladies and gentlemen" and thanks the audience for supporting the theater.
3	Why does Mr. Reed use formal language while Leo uses informal language? Use the audience for each speaker in your answer.	Mr. Reed is speaking to guests and the theater audience, so he uses formal language. Leo is speaking quietly to Maya, his cousin, so he uses informal language.
4	Compare Maya's language with Leo's language in paragraph 2. How does Maya sound different?	Maya sounds more polite and complete, saying, "Set them by the blue curtain, please." Leo uses casual words and short forms such as "'em" and "in a sec."

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ms. Park said, "Welcome, families. Please find your seats for the science fair." Sam whispered to Nia, "This place is packed. Let's check out the robots first." Ms. Park uses a formal register because she is addressing an audience. Sam uses an informal register because he is talking to a friend.

Accept other accurate examples of formal and informal language from the passage. In the open response, look for two clearly different registers that fit the speaker, audience, and setting, plus a reasonable explanation.