Drama Structure Detectives

Notice how a play's parts guide readers and actors.

4.9.C "explain structure in drama such as character tags, acts, scenes, and stage directions;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each act and scene label, circle each character tag, and number the bracketed stage directions. These parts show who speaks and when or where the action happens.

The Garden Hose

1. ACT I, SCENE 1 [The school garden at sunrise. Maya carries a watering can. Theo kneels beside a wilted bean plant.] MAYA: Theo, why are you here before school? THEO: I promised Ms. Chen I would water the plants, but this bean looks weak. MAYA: Let us check the soil first. [Maya touches the dirt and shakes her head.]

2. ACT I, SCENE 2 [Ten minutes later. The garden hose lies across the path.] THEO: The soil is dry, but the hose is leaking. MAYA: We need water for the beans, not a puddle on the path. [Ms. Chen enters with a toolbox.] MS. CHEN: What problem have you found? THEO: The hose has a small hole. [Maya moves the hose away from the seedlings.]

3. ACT II, SCENE 1 [The next afternoon. A dry patch of soil is now dark and damp.] MAYA: The new hose works. Look, the bean plant is standing taller. THEO: We solved the leak, and the roots got water. MS. CHEN: Tomorrow, we can build a small sign that says, "Keep the path clear." [They smile and carry the toolbox inside.]

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What do the character tags MAYA and THEO tell you in this script?

2. How does the label "ACT I, SCENE 2" help you understand the script's structure?

3. Give two details that the stage directions in Act I, Scene 2 tell actors or readers.

4. How does the change from Act I to Act II help show what happened to the bean plant?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short drama with one act and two scenes. Use character tags for two characters and at least one bracketed stage direction in each scene, and make Scene 2 show a change caused by Scene 1.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · TEKS 4.9.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each act and scene label, circle each character tag, and number the bracketed stage directions. These parts show who speaks and when or where the action happens. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What do the character tags MAYA and THEO tell you in this script?	**They tell which character speaks each line.**
2	How does the label "ACT I, SCENE 2" help you understand the script's structure?	**It shows that a new scene begins in the same act.**
3	Give two details that the stage directions in Act I, Scene 2 tell actors or readers.	**The hose lies across the path, and Ms. Chen enters with a toolbox.**
4	How does the change from Act I to Act II help show what happened to the bean plant?	**Act II takes place the next afternoon and shows that the plant is taller after the leak was fixed.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

ACT I, SCENE 1 [At a library table, Nia searches her backpack.] NIA: I cannot find my library book. OMAR: Let us check the classroom shelf. ACT I, SCENE 2 [At the shelf, Omar points to a book.] OMAR: Here it is. You left it during reading. NIA: Now I can return it.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect character tags to speakers, scene labels to sections of an act, and stage directions to actions, time, or place. For the open task, check for one act, two clearly labeled scenes, two character tags, and a bracketed stage direction in each scene.