

Voices in Action

Analyze character through spoken words and stage directions.

6.8.C “analyze how playwrights develop characters through dialogue and staging;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline dialogue that reveals what a character thinks or feels, and circle each stage direction that reveals an action or feeling. Number one pair of marks that work together to show how Maya changes.

Scene: The Greenhouse

- ① Scene: The school greenhouse after a storm. (Rain taps the glass. MAYA kneels beside a tray of flattened seedlings, holding a cracked clay pot.) MAYA: "The science fair is tomorrow, and our plants look like wet noodles." (She presses soil around one stem, then wipes mud from her hands.) ELI enters wearing a raincoat and carrying a box. ELI: "I brought towels, string, and my dad's lamp." MAYA: "Why would you come back? You already finished your project."
- ② (ELI sets the box carefully on a bench and opens it. Inside are small stakes, labels, and a flashlight.) ELI: "Because you helped me learn plant names when I mixed up basil and mint." MAYA: "That was one quiz." ELI: "It mattered to me." (MAYA looks at the broken pot. Her shoulders drop.) MAYA: "I planned every step. I should have checked the roof." ELI: "Plans can change. Let's save what we can tonight." (He hands her a towel. MAYA takes it and gives a small nod.)
- ③ (The flashlight flickers. A loud drip lands in a bucket.) MAYA: "Wait. The labels are dry." (She picks them up and sorts them into piles.) MAYA: "If we match each plant to its label, we can tell which ones need less water." ELI: "You are making a new plan already." MAYA: "A smaller plan." (She smiles and ties a stem to a stake.) ELI: "I will check the leaks while you work." (They move to opposite sides of the greenhouse as the rain grows quieter.)

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What trait does Maya reveal when she says, "I should have checked the roof"? Explain.

2 What do the stage directions "Her shoulders drop" and "gives a small nod" reveal about Maya's feelings?

3 How do Eli's dialogue and staging develop him as a supportive friend? Give one spoken detail and one action.

4 At the end of the scene, how do Maya's dialogue and stage directions together show a change in her character?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a scene of six to eight lines about two characters facing a new problem. Include dialogue from both characters and at least two stage directions that show one character changing from worried to determined.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline dialogue that reveals what a character thinks or feels, and circle each stage direction that reveals an action or feeling. Number one pair of marks that work together to show how Maya changes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What trait does Maya reveal when she says, "I should have checked the roof"? Explain.	Maya is responsible but hard on herself because she blames herself for not checking the roof.
2	What do the stage directions "Her shoulders drop" and "gives a small nod" reveal about Maya's feelings?	She first feels discouraged, then becomes willing to try to save the plants.
3	How do Eli's dialogue and staging develop him as a supportive friend? Give one spoken detail and one action.	He says Maya's help mattered to him, and he returns with supplies and hands her a towel.
4	At the end of the scene, how do Maya's dialogue and stage directions together show a change in her character?	She changes from worrying about failure to solving the problem, proposing a plan and smiling while tying a stem to a stake.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

(A gust blows papers from NOAH's table.) NOAH: "My model bridge is ruined. I cannot rebuild it before judging." LENA: "The cardboard is wet, but the notes are still dry." (NOAH gathers the notes and spreads them beside a fan.) NOAH: "The notes show every measurement. I can build one smaller bridge." LENA: "I will cut new pieces while you measure." (NOAH straightens his shoulders and begins drawing.)

Accept supported descriptions of character traits and changes when students cite accurate dialogue or stage directions. For Part 3, check that both characters speak, at least two stage directions appear, and the worried character's determination is clear through words and actions.