

Voices Beyond Stage

Trace how theatrical voices shape a play's meaning and impact.

12.RL.1.D "Analyze and evaluate how dramatic conventions (e.g., soliloquy, aside, narration, direct address to the audience) contribute to the theme and effect of plays from various cultures."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every line directed to the audience, circle the line spoken while other characters are unaware, and number each moment of narration or solitary speech. In the margin, note what each choice reveals about memory, duty, or belonging.

Candles in the Courtyard

- ① At dusk in Oaxaca, a narrow courtyard glows with candles beside an ofrenda covered in bread, photographs, and orange cempasúchil. A voice from the edge of the stage speaks while the family arranges cups of water: "Tonight the living make a path for those remembered. Each object carries a name, and each name asks the household to listen." Marisol, seventeen, lifts her late grandfather's carpenter's plane. "Abuelo would laugh at this crooked table." She turns toward the audience. "Tell me, strangers, does a memory weaken when no one says it aloud?" Her younger brother, Nico, keeps folding paper flags and does not look up.
- ② Nico slips the plane into a cloth bag. "We could sell this and repair the roof," he says. Marisol freezes. Their mother, Elena, crosses to the kitchen door, then pauses. While Elena and Marisol continue arranging candles without looking up, Nico turns toward the audience. "I know the roof leaks, but I want one thing that belonged to him." Elena returns carrying chocolate. "Your grandfather fixed more than wood," she says. "He taught us to mend what weather breaks." The voice at the stage edge describes Elena placing the plane back on the altar. Marisol watches Nico's hands. "You want to keep him close," she says, "but you also want to protect us."
- ③ After Elena and Nico enter the house, Marisol remains beside the altar. She touches the plane, then speaks into the quiet courtyard. "I thought remembering meant refusing to change. But Abuelo repaired chairs so people could use them again. Perhaps love is not holding an object still. Perhaps it is choosing what it can build next." The stage-edge voice says that a gust lifts the paper flags, yet the candles remain lit. Nico reappears with a tin of nails. He sets it beside the plane. Marisol nods, and together they carry the tools toward the leaking roof.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the opening voice establish the setting and introduce a central idea of the scene?

2 Compare Marisol's question to the audience with Nico's private words to the audience. What conflict does each reveal, and what effect does this access create?

3 How does Marisol's solitary speech change the meaning of the carpenter's plane?

4 Evaluate the effect of the final narrated image of moving flags but lit candles, followed by the siblings carrying tools to the roof.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Create a 6 to 8 line scene set during a real cultural tradition that you can portray accurately. Include a narrator and either an aside or a direct address to the audience, then write exactly two sentences explaining how the convention develops a theme.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline every line directed to the audience, circle the line spoken while other characters are unaware, and number each moment of narration or solitary speech. In the margin, note what each choice reveals about memory, duty, or belonging. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the opening voice establish the setting and introduce a central idea of the scene?	It explains the ofrenda and the family's act of remembrance, introducing the idea that speaking names and keeping memories connects the living with loved ones who have died.
2	Compare Marisol's question to the audience with Nico's private words to the audience. What conflict does each reveal, and what effect does this access create?	Marisol fears that an unspoken memory will fade, while Nico wants to keep his grandfather's plane despite the need to repair the roof. Speaking directly to the audience lets viewers understand both characters' private concerns.
3	How does Marisol's solitary speech change the meaning of the carpenter's plane?	She changes from seeing it as an object that must remain still to seeing it as an inheritance that can inspire useful action. This develops the theme that remembrance can adapt rather than resist change.
4	Evaluate the effect of the final narrated image of moving flags but lit candles, followed by the siblings carrying tools to the roof.	The image suggests that change and hardship may move around the family, but their connection endures. The action makes the theme concrete because the siblings honor their grandfather by repairing the home.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Narrator: On Chuseok morning, Hana places songpyeon on a tray for her family meal. Hana: Grandma, I burned one. Grandmother: Then we eat the imperfect one first. Hana: You hear that? In this family, a mistake still has a place. Grandmother: Bring the tray. We will visit Grandfather's grave after breakfast. Hana: I will bring the crooked songpyeon too. The narrator grounds the scene in a Chuseok family practice, while Hana's direct address lets the audience share her relief. Together, they develop the theme that belonging makes room for imperfection.

Accept responses that identify the relevant convention and connect it to a defensible theme or audience effect using passage details. For the open task, accept any accurate cultural context, clear use of the required convention, and a two-sentence explanation that links convention, theme, and effect.