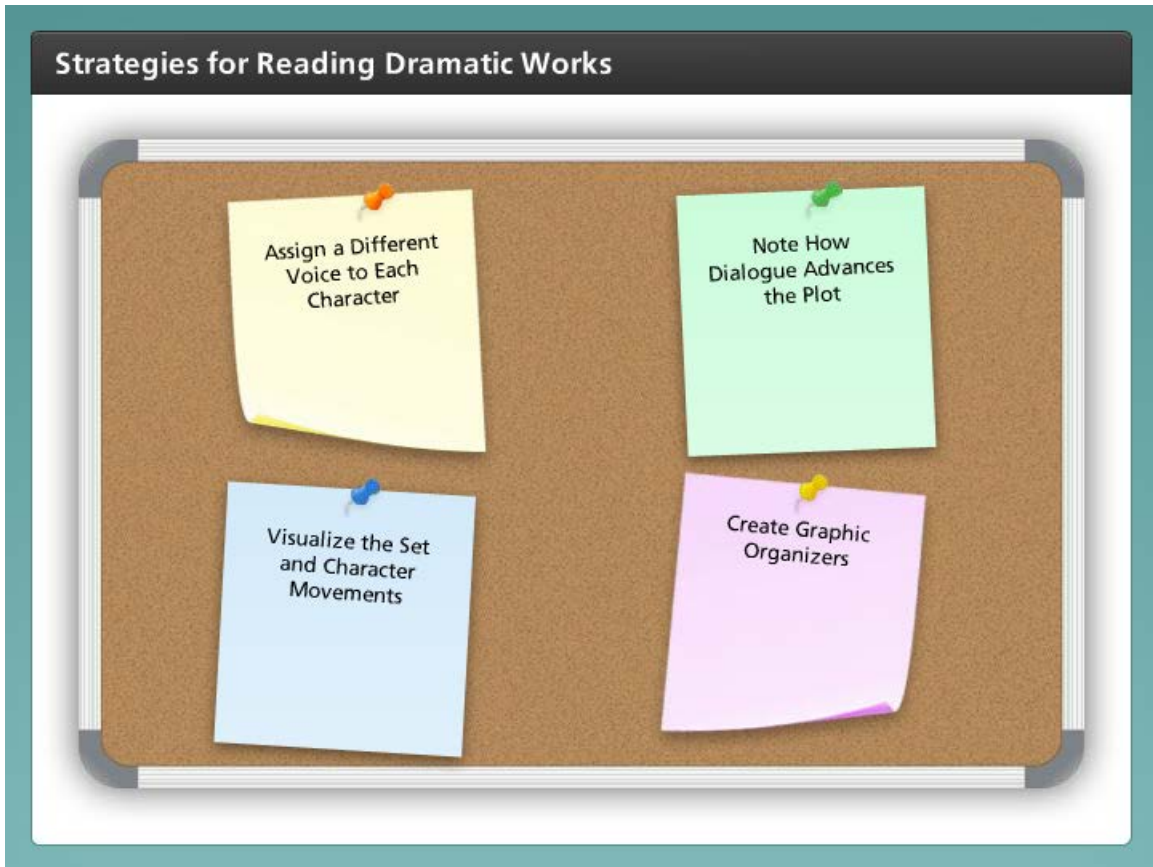


Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*
Topic 1 Content: Strategies for Reading Dramatic Works

Introduction



Reading drama is different from reading novels or short stories. Drama is in its very own genre for a reason, and therefore you must use a different approach to reading and understanding drama. Drama refers to a story that is meant to be performed on a stage. Drama and prose fiction do share characteristics like plot, setting, and characters. However, it is important to remember that prose is meant to be read on a page, whereas drama is meant to be spoken aloud. In this interactivity, click the notes on the bulletin board to examine strategies for reading dramatic works.


Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*
Topic 1 Content: Strategies for Reading Dramatic Works

Assign a Different Voice to Each Character

Strategies for Reading Dramatic Works

Assign a Different Voice to Each Character

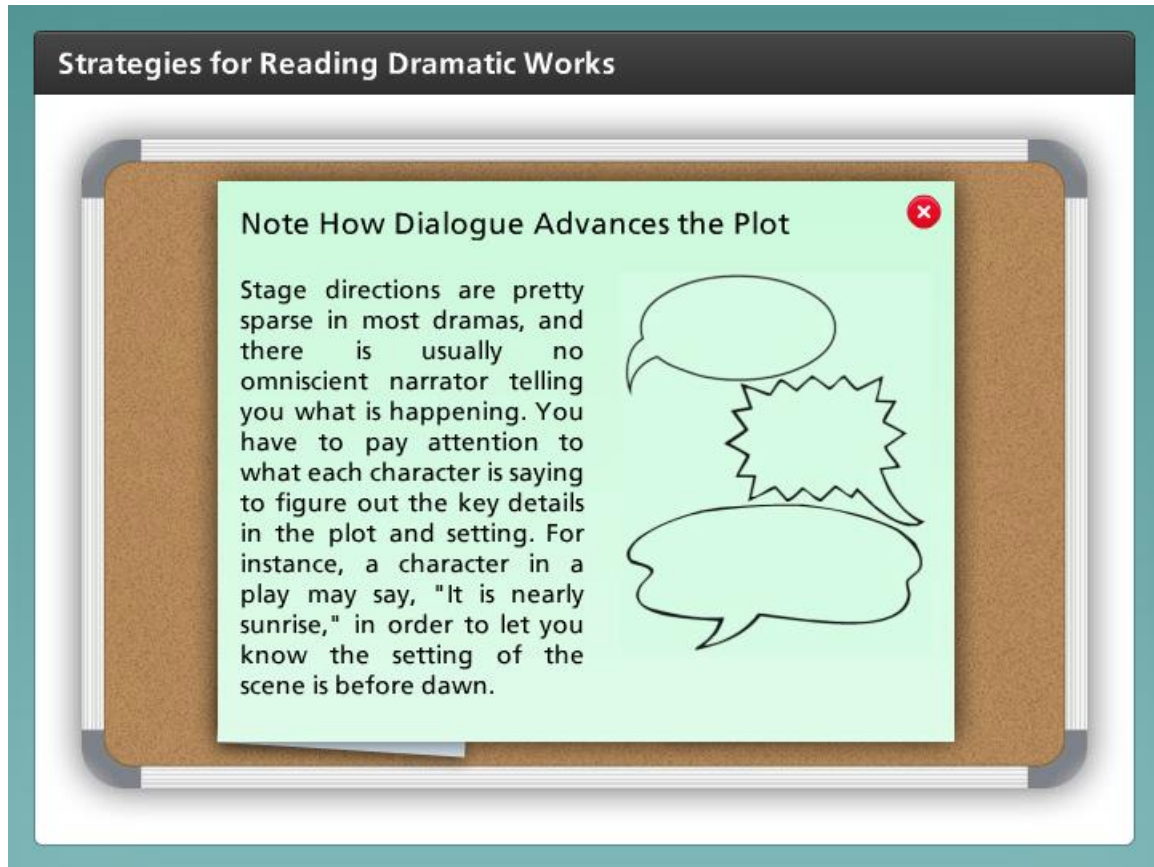
In a drama, you will be reading a lot of dialogue with very few descriptions of gestures, facial expressions, tones of voice, and other clues that indicate what is happening in the story. Try assigning a different voice to each character as you read. If you can "hear" the different voices while reading on your own, it will help you keep track of the characters and action.

A line drawing of a pair of over-ear headphones with a coiled cord. The drawing is simple and uses black outlines on a white background.

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Note How Dialogue Advances the Plot



Strategies for Reading Dramatic Works

Note How Dialogue Advances the Plot

Stage directions are pretty sparse in most dramas, and there is usually no omniscient narrator telling you what is happening. You have to pay attention to what each character is saying to figure out the key details in the plot and setting. For instance, a character in a play may say, "It is nearly sunrise," in order to let you know the setting of the scene is before dawn.

The graphic also features three speech bubble icons: a standard oval bubble, a jagged starburst bubble, and a larger, rounded bubble.

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Visualize the Set and Character Movements

Strategies for Reading Dramatic Works

Visualize the Set and Character Movements

The script of a play does not have a narrator explaining the action and movement of the characters. In order to follow the action of the plot, you should pay close attention to the stage directions and picture the movement of the characters in your mind.



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Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*
Topic 1 Content: Strategies for Reading Dramatic Works

Create Graphic Organizers

Strategies for Reading Dramatic Works

Create Graphic Organizers

A strategy for reading a drama is to create graphic organizers. For example, you can keep track of the numerous characters in a play by filling in a character map. Another option is to draw pictures of what you believe the set of the play looks like. Create your own graphic organizers to help you keep track of important elements of the play.



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