

Module 8: Drama – *Romeo and Juliet*
Topic 3 Content: The Use of Stage Directions

Introduction

The Use of Stage Directions

As you were reading the first act of *Romeo and Juliet*, you probably noticed how stage directions helped you to understand how the action of the play would unfold on the stage. Stage directions are written instructions in a script, often appearing in italics or brackets. They can indicate stage actions, delivery of lines by performers, and production requirements such as costumes, lighting, or props. Of course, stage directions are not read aloud by the actors. In this interactivity, click the three ways that stage directions are used in *Romeo and Juliet* to view examples from the first act.

**Indicating
Stage Entrances
and Exits**

**Indicating
Stage Actions**

**Indicating
Asides**

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Indicating Stage Entrances and Exits

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Stage directions are used to indicate when actors are entering and exiting the scene. Read the excerpt below from Act I and click the line that indicates a stage direction. The stage direction will become highlighted once you have correctly selected it.

Continue

CAPULET

My sword, I say! Old Montague is come,
And flourishes his blade in spite of me.

[Enter MONTAGUE and LADY MONTAGUE.]



MONTAGUE

Thou villain Capulet,—Hold me not, let me go.

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Continue

BENVOLIO

Part, fools!

Put up your swords; you know not what you do.

[Beats down their swords.]



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Indicating Asides

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Stage directions are used to indicate asides, or spoken lines that are not heard by other characters on the stage. Read the excerpt below from Act I and click the line that indicates a stage direction. The stage direction will become highlighted once you have correctly selected it.

[Continue](#)

SAMPSON 

[Aside to GREGORY.] Is the law of our side, if I say ay?

GREGORY

No.

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SAMPSON

[Aside to GREGORY.] Is the law of our side, if I say ay?

GREGORY

No.