

NAME:

TEACHER:

HOW TO WRITE A COMEDY SCENE



GRADE 5
CA THEATRE
STANDARDS
1.2 AND 2.3

STEP 1:

CHOOSE A **SETTING**, **CHARACTERS**,
AND A **PLOT**...

EXAMPLE:

- SCHOOL CAFETERIA (**SETTING**)
- LUNCH LADY AND STUDENTS
(**CHARACTERS**)
- CAFETERIA JUST RAN OUT OF FOOD
(**PLOT**)

OR... NO **PLOT!**...

- KIDS ARE WAITING FOR LUNCH...

BUT YOU NEED TO HAVE
CHARACTERS AND A **SETTING!**

YOUR WORDS AND IDEAS HERE...

SETTING:

CHARACTERS:

PLOT/NO PLOT:

THIS IS YOUR EXPOSITION...
THE FIRST OF THE FIVE STRUCTURAL
ELEMENTS OF PLOT.

STEP 2:

CHANGE THE **PLOT!**

IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING THAT MAKES
MATTERS WORSE, CONFUSING OR
DANGEROUS FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED!

EXAMPLE:

—THE LUNCH LADY SERVES THE STUDENTS PAPER
TOWELS INSTEAD OF FOOD AND PRETENDS THAT
NOTHING IS WRONG...

OR...

—A STUDENT DECIDES TO GO INTO THE KITCHEN
TO HELP AND THE PRINCIPAL THINKS THAT HE/SHE
IS THE NEW CAFETERIA WORKER...

OR...

—AN ASTEROID CRASHES THROUGH THE CEILING...

YOUR WORDS AND IDEAS HERE...

WHAT HAPPENS
TO CHANGE THE **PLOT:**

THIS IS YOUR **COMPLICATION**... THE SECOND OF
THE FIVE STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS OF PLOT.

STEP 3:

CREATE MORE PROBLEMS BY MAKING
THE **COMPLICATION** INTO A **CRISIS!**

EXAMPLE:

- LUNCH LADY SERVES TOILET PAPER, HAND SOAP, AND TRASH BAGS, STILL REFUSING TO ADMIT THAT WHAT SHE IS DOING IS WRONG!
OR...
- PRINCIPAL ASKS CHEF/STUDENT TO COOK HIM SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR LUNCH!...
OR...
- THE ASTEROID BEGINS TO MAKE ONE STUDENT DANCE UNCONTROLLABLY, SPILLING HIS FOOD EVERYWHERE!...

STEP 4:

TURN THE **CRISIS** INTO A **CLIMAX!**

EXAMPLE:

- STUDENT STARTS TO SHAKE THE LUNCH LADY TO BREAK HER FROM HER TRANCE, AND FOR A SECOND SHE STOPS, AND SEEMS SANE...
OR...
- PRINCIPAL IS ABOUT TO EAT THE CHEF/STUDENT'S SPECIAL LUNCH, BUT BEFORE HE CAN BITE INTO IT, HIS WALKIE-TALKIE BEEPS...
OR...
- STUDENT KNOCKS INTO EVERYONE, SPILLING THEIR LUNCHES TOO, WHEN SUDDENLY THE PRINCIPAL ENTERS AND SCREAMS AT THE STUDENT TO STOP...

STEP 5:

SURPRISE YOUR AUDIENCE WITH HOW IT ENDS — YOUR **RESOLUTION!**

EXAMPLE:

- LUNCH LADY SAYS "I'M SO SORRY, I ALMOST FORGOT..." AND PUTS A SPONGE ON A PLATE — "DESSERT!"
- PRINCIPAL HEARS ON WALKIE-TALKIE ABOUT A STUDENT PRETENDING TO BE A COOK, ASKS CHEF/STUDENT TO HELP HIM FIND THE CULPRIT, THEY LEAVE TOGETHER
- PRINCIPAL YELLS STOP BUT INSTEAD OF BEING MAD AT HIM FOR MAKING THE MESS, TELLS HIM HE'S NOT DOING IT RIGHT AND SHOWS HIM HOW

YOUR WORDS AND IDEAS HERE...

HOW THE **COMPLICATION**
TURNS INTO A **CRISIS:**

THIS IS YOUR **CRISIS**,
THE THIRD STRUCTURAL ELEMENT OF PLOT.

YOUR WORDS AND IDEAS HERE...

HOW DOES THE **CRISIS**
TURN INTO A **CLIMAX?**

CLIMAX IS THE
THE FOURTH STRUCTURAL ELEMENT OF
PLOT.

YOUR WORDS AND IDEAS HERE...

WHAT IS THE SURPRISE OF
THE **RESOLUTION!**

YOU'VE JUST WRITTEN A COMEDY SKETCH!