

## Compendium 1. Cloze Assessment of a Passage About Dramatic Elements of a Play

### Cloze Passage: Teacher Version

**Directions:** Approximately every fifth word has been deleted from this passage. Read the passage and write the words on a separate sheet of paper that best fit both the meaning and the structure of the sentence. You may read the passage more than once.

**Note to teachers:** We have left the passage intact so you can view it in its entirety. In the student version, a blank line is substituted for the underlined words.

Most plays in Western literature can be analyzed by identifying specific elements related to their plot, character development, and dramatic arc. The first elements of dramatic analysis lie in understanding how the plot develops. Every play begins with an inciting incident that occurred just before the story begins. It is the trigger for everything else to come. For example, the inciting incident in a play that begins with a funeral scene is the death of the deceased person. We didn't see him or her die, but it sets the rest of the play in motion.

Characters are then introduced, including the protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is the character who propels the play forward. He or she has the major dramatic question, which will not be answered until the end of the play. The moment of engagement happens early in the play, when the protagonist commits to his or her goal. The antagonist is the obstacle, as she or he prevents the protagonist from achieving goals. The protagonist is not necessarily the hero, and the antagonist is not always the villain. They are in opposition to one another. Characters are developed using direct characterization, such as when the playwright tells the audience about the character's personality. Indirect characterization shows a character's personality through dialogue, actions, thoughts, and the reaction of others.

The dramatic arc of the play includes the rising action, as each event builds background, interest, and suspense. The majority of the play consists of rising action. The climax of the play is when the major dramatic question is answered. Did the protagonist achieve his goals? In a tragedy, it may be an explosive confrontation between characters. In a comedy, the climax may happen when the two main characters are reunited in love. The play ends with the denouement. This is the final scene, when any remaining questions are now resolved. These elements are present in all plays, and knowledge of them can aid you in understanding the play.

## Cloze Passage: Student Version

**Directions:** Approximately every fifth word has been deleted from this passage. Read the passage and write the words on a separate sheet of paper that best fit both the meaning and the structure of the sentence. You may read the passage more than once.

Most plays in Western literature can be analyzed by identifying specific elements related to their plot, character development, and dramatic arc. The first elements of \_\_\_\_\_ analysis lie in understanding \_\_\_\_\_ the plot develops. \_\_\_\_\_ play begins with an \_\_\_\_\_ incident that occurred just \_\_\_\_\_ the story begins. It \_\_\_\_\_ the trigger for everything \_\_\_\_\_ to come. For example, the \_\_\_\_\_ incident in \_\_\_\_\_ play that begins with \_\_\_\_\_ funeral scene is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the deceased person. \_\_\_\_\_ didn't see him or \_\_\_\_\_ die, but it sets the rest of \_\_\_\_\_ play \_\_\_\_\_ motion.

Characters \_\_\_\_\_ then introduced, including the \_\_\_\_\_ and antagonist. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the character who propels \_\_\_\_\_ play forward. He or \_\_\_\_\_ has the major dramatic \_\_\_\_\_, which will not be \_\_\_\_\_ until the end of \_\_\_\_\_ play. The moment of \_\_\_\_\_ happens early in \_\_\_\_\_ play, when the protagonist \_\_\_\_\_ to his or her \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the obstacle, as she or \_\_\_\_\_ prevents the protagonist from \_\_\_\_\_ goals. The \_\_\_\_\_ is not necessarily the \_\_\_\_\_, and the antagonist is not always the \_\_\_\_\_. They \_\_\_\_\_ in opposition to one \_\_\_\_\_. Characters are developed using \_\_\_\_\_ characterization, such as when \_\_\_\_\_ playwright tells the audience \_\_\_\_\_ the character's personality. \_\_\_\_\_ characterization shows a character's \_\_\_\_\_ through dialogue, actions, thoughts, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

The dramatic arc \_\_\_\_\_ the play includes the \_\_\_\_\_ action, as each event \_\_\_\_\_ background, interest, and suspense. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the play \_\_\_\_\_ of rising action. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the play is \_\_\_\_\_ the major dramatic \_\_\_\_\_ is answered. Did the \_\_\_\_\_ achieve his goals? In a \_\_\_\_\_, it may \_\_\_\_\_ an explosive confrontation between \_\_\_\_\_. In a comedy, the \_\_\_\_\_ may happen when the \_\_\_\_\_ main characters are reunited \_\_\_\_\_ love. The play \_\_\_\_\_ with the denouement. This \_\_\_\_\_ the final scene, when \_\_\_\_\_ remaining questions are now \_\_\_\_\_. These elements are present in all plays, and knowledge of them can aid you in understanding the play.