

Title: A Royal Mystery

Lesson #2:

Skill - Theme, p. T90 or p. 46; Elements of Drama; Characterization
Strategy - Question, p T90 or p. 46

Genre:

Play

Essential Question:

How can art and performance help people understand a text?

Think Through the Text:

1. Why is Misty offended by Althea's words? (p. T94 & p. 50)
2. What does Misty's reaction to Rena tell you about the kind of person she is? (p. T94 & p. 51)
3. What have we learned about Rena by the end of the first scene? How is she different from the other girls? (p. T94 & p. 51)
4. What do you think has happened between the end of Scene I and the beginning of Scene II? (p. T96 & p. 52)
5. What is the narrator's function in the play? When does he or she speak? (p. T96 & p. 52)
6. Althea keeps trying to find out more about Rena. Look at the illustration of the two girls on p. 54. What does Rena's body language tell you about her reaction to Althea's questions? What tone does it communicate? (p. T98 & p. 54)
7. How does the phrase "I vow to help you win..." show that Rena and Althea are finding common interests? (p. T98 & p.54)
8. What book is Althea reading? What do you think she has concluded about Rena? (p. T98 & p. 55)
9. How does the description of the race in Scene VII contradict the expression on Althea's face in the illustration? (p. T100 & p. 56)
10. How does Rena's reaction to the outcome of the race differ from Althea's? What does she see that Althea has briefly forgotten? (p. T102 & p. 58)
11. What does Althea hope to prove by putting the peanut butter under Rena's mattresses? Review scenes V and VI to determine where she got the idea. (p. T102 & p. 58)
12. Rena is surprised to learn from Althea that she is a princess. Do you find it difficult to believe that she did not know this before?

- Why or why not? (p. T104 & p. 60)
13. What is the significance of the matching necklaces? (p. T104 & p. 61)

Analyze the Text:

Read the Analyze the Text box on p. 56. Elements of Drama - Plays are divided into scenes, much the same way books are divided into chapters. Scenes come together to build a plot. In plays, knowing the setting notes at the beginning of scenes is important since they let us know when and where the action is taking place. Look through the play so far. Find how the setting changes from scene to scene. How does the scene tell us about the plot? (p. T101 & p. 56)

Read the Analyze the Text box on p. 61. Theme - A play's theme is a central message or idea that comes through the whole play. To understand the theme, we look at details in each scene noting how characters act and feel. Thinking about our main characters, how do Rena and Althea respond to challenges? (p. T105 & p. 61)

Your Turn:

Return to the Essential Question (p. T108 & p. 64)

1. How does the dialogue in Scene I help the audience understand the setting of the play?
2. How do the stage directions help you visualize the action?
3. Which of the illustrations are most helpful in bringing the play's characters to life? Why?

Write About Reading:

(p. T109 or p. 65)