

Promptbooks

As a director prepares a script for the stage, he or she constructs a promptbook, making notes about choices for the set, props, movement, the tone or volume or pace in which lines of dialogue are to be delivered. You will make a promptbook for Act 2.2.

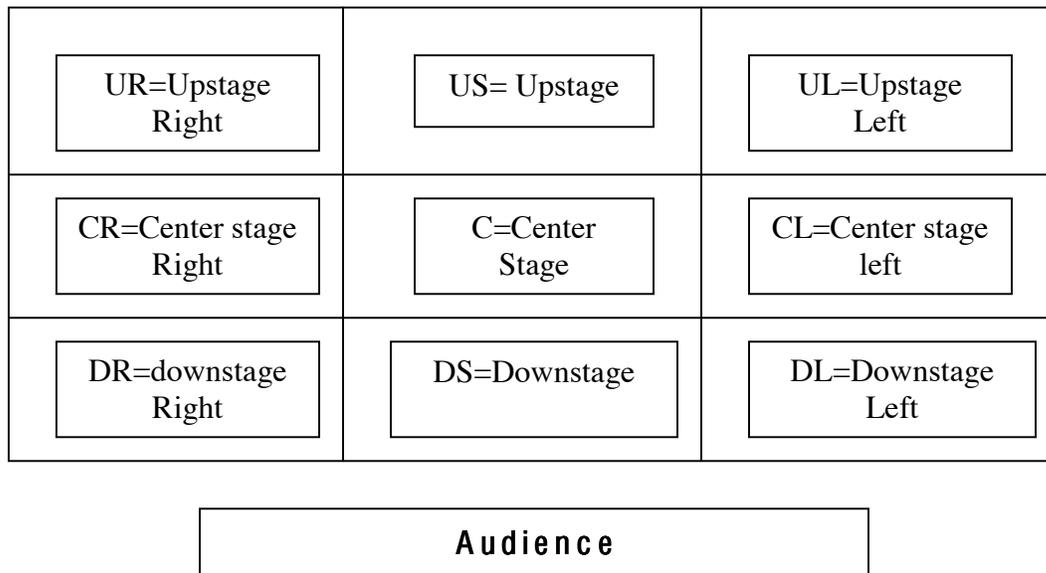
Objectives of the lesson:

1. To gain a clear understanding of the scene.
2. To visualize the set and its appropriate props and traffic patterns
3. To interpret the lines and give direction for how they should be read.
4. To understand the characters more fully.

Directions:

- ✓ Make cuts in the lines by crossing out lines. Shakespeare's words must appear in their original sequence without changes in their meaning, but you may cut lines that seem repetitive or not necessary. Make a note in the margin justifying the reasons for your cuts. Work in pencil.
- ✓ Make production notes about the way you want the scene to be played. These notes should include the following information: pauses, tone of voice, gestures and facial expressions, notes or diagrams of action and movement.

Use this diagram to refer to areas of the stage and the directions used in theatre:



As you work on your promptbook, keep the following questions in mind:

1. Where does the action take place?
2. Who is speaking to whom?
3. What happens in this passage?
4. Where should the characters be positioned on stage? From where and to where are entrances and exits made? Why?
5. What props are required by the passage?
6. Especially important are questions about the characters:
 - ✓ What motivates these characters to say what they say?
 - ✓ Do the characters' objectives change in this passage? If so, when and why? Or do only tactics change? What obstacles stand in each character's way? What happens when objectives meet obstacles?
 - ✓ Where would you place vocal pauses?
 - ✓ In what tone of voice is the line spoken? Why?
 - ✓ How would the characters move here? What facial expressions might accompany the delivery of this line?