

Sample Pages from Two Thousand Prompts for Drama Class

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TWO THOUSAND PROMPTS FOR DRAMA CLASS



By Kerry Hishon

Two Thousand Prompts for Drama Class
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Published by Theatrefolk Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

Starting a project, exercise, or activity can be challenging for drama students. To say “Write a scene about anything you like!” or “Just make it up — go for it!” is overwhelming. Even the most creative student can get stumped.

Enter prompts. In these pages you will find 2000 (yes, *two thousand!*) ideas, suggestions, and kernels of inspiration on a multitude of subjects: the great outdoors, clothing and accessories, action words, colours, would-you-rather questions, and more. With 100 prompts per topic and 20 different topics, there is something for everyone, even the least inspired drama student. And it's all at your fingertips in this resource.

Prompts are generally used to start or inspire scenes, whether the scenes are written, improvised, or acted out. You can also use the prompts in this resource to inspire non-speaking scenes like mime, clown, or tableaux; to give deeper descriptors to characters' personalities and likes/dislikes; to play games and do warm-ups; to create costume designs and mood boards; and more. There's really no wrong way to use a prompt. Even if the prompt you get doesn't quite work and you need to modify it, that's ok! It got you started, and that's what matters.

For each topic, you'll find a list of some activities you can use the prompts for, as well as exit slip questions relating to the topic. You could also use the exit slip questions for opening bellwork or check-in questions. The possibilities for these prompts, exercises, and questions are truly endless. We can give you the push to get started. Then, see where the prompt takes you. The only limit is your imagination!

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FAST & SLOW PROMPTS

Speed up! Slow down! Hurry hurry — but hang on! Sometimes you need speed-related prompts for your improvisation games or playwriting projects, and we won't keep you waiting. Here is a collection of 50 speedy and 50 languid prompts (100 prompts total!), with a collection of exit slip questions below. Don't delay — get at it, posthaste!

FAST PROMPTS

1. A supersonic jet
2. An Olympic sprinter
3. An Olympic swimmer
4. A speed skater
5. Hermes, the Greek god of speed and agility
6. Someone being chased by a bear
7. Someone urgently searching for a bathroom
8. A peregrine falcon
9. A shortfin mako (the world's fastest shark)
10. A race car
11. Some hot gossip
12. A cheetah
13. A speeding bullet
14. A bullet train
15. A superhero with super-speed powers (like The Flash or Quicksilver)
16. An avalanche
17. A pet dog or cat doing zoomies
18. A quickstep ballroom dance
19. A waterslide
20. A rollercoaster
21. A rabbit
22. EDM (electronic dance music)
23. Fast food
24. The *Fast and the Furious* movie series
25. A velociraptor
26. A racehorse
27. A toddler with something in their mouth that they shouldn't have
28. A car chase

29. Bobsled / luge
30. Musical tempo markings *allegro*, *vivace*, *presto*, etc.
31. An auctioneer
32. A rapper
33. A patter song
34. Time, when you are dreading something
35. A child growing up, from the perspective of a parent/guardian
36. A fight sequence in a Jackie Chan movie
37. An HIIT (high-intensity interval training) circuit
38. A book or television show that you're really into
39. People dancing at a rave
40. The moment when Romeo drinks the poison ("O true apothecary, thy drugs are quick.")
41. An arrow flying towards a target
42. "Coming up in a jiffy!"
43. A "minute to win it" game countdown
44. A five-second head start
45. A professional Rubik's Cube solver
46. UV-CUP (compressed ultrafast photography) camera, which can capture up to .5 trillion frames per second
47. A black marlin fish (the world's fastest fish)
48. Mercury (the fastest planet in the solar system)
49. Cosmic rays
50. The speed of light

SLOW PROMPTS

1. A tortoise
2. A snail
3. A baby learning to walk
4. An elderly person
5. Someone with a broken leg
6. People strolling along the beach
7. A traffic jam
8. A sloth
9. Ketchup coming out of a glass bottle

10. Trying to scrape price tag residue off an item
11. Being put on hold on the phone
12. A ballad
13. A meal made in a slow cooker
14. Being stuck in mud
15. Waiting in line
16. Completing a thousand-piece puzzle
17. Molasses
18. Growing out your hair
19. A restaurant with mediocre service
20. Learning how to skate
21. Dial-up internet
22. Trying to remove waterproof makeup
23. Trying to turn off your phone in a theatre while everyone watches you angrily
24. A shopping cart with a wiggly wheel
25. Tourists
26. Watching paint dry
27. Reading the dictionary
28. Meditation
29. A worm
30. Walking uphill
31. Listening to a boring lecture
32. Waiting for your birthday
33. Trying to get a sleepy person out of bed
34. Decomposition
35. Syrup
36. Lawn bowling
37. A brand-new driver
38. The hour hand on a clock
39. Searching for your missing cell phone / wallet / glasses
40. Mail service
41. A preschooler learning to tie their shoes
42. Sunrise
43. A bus or plane ride when someone is kicking the back of your seat

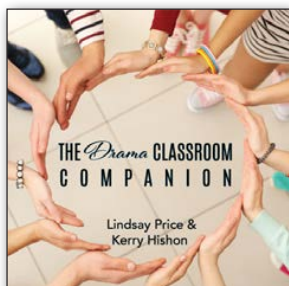
44. Waiting urgently for an open bathroom stall
45. A preschool dance recital
46. The last day of school before holidays
47. Waiting at a train crossing
48. Musical tempo markings *lento*, *adagio*, *grave*, etc
49. Practicing tai chi
50. An old computer

EXIT SLIP QUESTIONS

- In everyday life, do you tend to speak slowly or quickly? Does this change when you are performing in drama class? Why or why not?
- Which is worse: listening to a fast talker and asking them to repeat themselves because you didn't hear what they said, or listening to a slow talker and getting bored with the conversation? Why?
- What's an activity or hobby you enjoy that requires speed? What's an activity or hobby you enjoy that takes time to complete?
- Would you rather arrive early or late to an event? Why?
- What does "theatrical pacing" mean? Explain it in your own words. (Note: We don't mean "pacing" as in walking back and forth in anxiety or annoyance.)
- Why is pacing important in a theatrical performance?
- Imagine that you had the power of super speed. What are three things you'd do with this power?

Teaching Resources

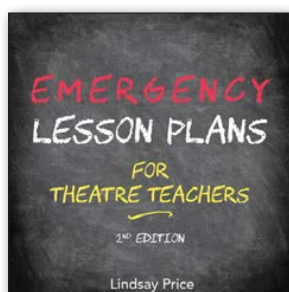
Quality resources to use in your drama classroom



The Drama Classroom Companion

The Drama Classroom Companion is filled with articles and exercises to build the skills needed for theatrical performance as well as real world skills like creative thinking, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication.

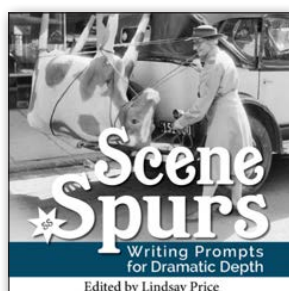
theatrefolk.com/companion



Emergency Lesson Plans For Theatre Teachers

Emergency Lesson Plans For Theatre Teachers, 2nd edition gives you the tools and resources you need to confidently leave your class in the hands of a substitute teacher. Customize your lesson plans to suit the specific needs of your class when you can't be there.

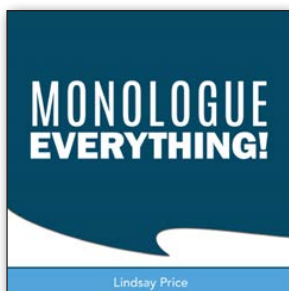
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Scene-Spurs: Writing Prompts for Dramatic Depth

Scene Spurs is a collection of photo-based writing prompts developed by playwright Lindsay Price. The set includes 35 different Spurs along with an instruction guide to integrate them into your drama classroom.

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The Monologue Everything Program

Want your students to write their own monologues? Have you tried to incorporate monologue units into the classroom with less-than-satisfactory results?

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Practical Technical Theater: The Complete Solution for Technical Theater Classrooms

This series of instructional DVDs is perfect for the teacher who feels more at home with a prompt book than a hammer, and would welcome a new, visually oriented teaching tool for their tech classes and production crews.

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Monologue and Scene Collections

Whether it's for classwork, competitions or auditions, these collections of student-appropriate monologues and scenes can help you find what you're looking for.

All monologues and scenes come from published plays and include running-times, descriptions, character notes and staging suggestions.

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The Student Director's Handbook

Help students take their show from first audition to opening night with *The Student Director's Handbook*. This easy-to-use ebook is full of guidelines, tips and templates designed to help students create a vision, circumvent problems and organize rehearsals on their way to a successful production.

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Your students want to write and perform an original play. You want to include a playwriting unit in your program. But where to start? What if your students have never written a play before? What if you've never written before?

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