

Visualize

A play is written to be performed for an audience. When you read a play for the first time, visualizing, or picturing, the scene descriptions, characters, settings, and actions can be helpful.



Find Text Evidence

When you read the setting description for Scene One of the play, “Where’s Brownie?” on page 253, you may have to slow down and take time to picture what is happening.

page 253

Scene One

Setting: A two-person bedroom in an apartment. SAM sits at a messy desk, creating a poster. EVAN works at a clean desk. Nearby are an empty terrarium and a paper bag that is wet and torn at the bottom.

Narrator: Whoever claimed that “two heads are better than one” never met my twin sister. Half the time, she makes problems worse rather than better. Like when we lost Brownie, our pet chameleon . . .

(ALEX enters. SAM and EVAN quickly cover up their work.)

Alex: How was the science fair? Did everyone like Brownie?

Sam: They did. Mr. Rollins was **astounded** that my exhibit was so good. *(SAM tries to hide the empty terrarium from ALEX.)*

First, I have to picture the room and characters, and I wonder what kind of poster they are making. Also, the sight of an empty terrarium and a wet, torn bag make me curious as to how all the events are connected.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Why is it important that Nicky is playing near the fountain in Scene Two? Visualize the events to help you. As you read, remember to use the strategy Visualize.

Point of View

In a play, a character who delivers a particular line of dialogue from his or her own point of view is called a **speaker**. In some plays, one speaker may be a **narrator**, who provides information from a point outside of the main action of the play.



Find Text Evidence

From the first speech of "Where's Brownie?" on page 253, I see a narrator looking back in time to an experience involving her twin sister and a lost pet. This means that she has firsthand knowledge of what happened. I can probably trust what she has to say.

Details	Point of View
Has twin sister who makes "problems worse"	The narrator is one of the sisters. She is caring and reliable, with firsthand knowledge about the event being described.
Had a pet chameleon	
Describes Brownie as "beloved"	

Your Turn



Which sister do you think becomes the narrator ten years after the events of the play? Select details that support your answer to place in your graphic organizer.

Go Digital!

Use the interactive graphic organizer

Mystery

The selection “Where’s Brownie?” is a mystery play.

Mystery plays:

- Center on a mystery that must be solved using clues
- Are made up mostly of dialogue among characters
- Contain scenes, setting details, and stage directions



Find Text Evidence

I can tell that “Where’s Brownie?” is a mystery play. It begins with a cast of characters and a description of the setting. It also includes stage directions that tell what the characters are doing. Through dialogue, the characters realize their pet is missing. They begin to look for clues to solve the mystery.

page 254

Scene Two

Setting: The lobby of the apartment building. A tall, green, potted plant stands next to a small fountain, where NICKY is playing. ALEX, SAM, and EVAN talk to NICK near a bulletin board.

Nick: So these posters are about your lizard, Brownie. I’m still **perplexed** as to why you think he’s down here.

Sam: Because we already checked upstairs.

Alex: Brownie’s a chameleon. We think he escaped when Sam set the bag down near the fountain.

Nick: Hey, Nicky! Any brown lizards in the lobby?

Nicky: Nope.

Nick: Maybe you should **reconsider** this and try searching your apartment again.

Evan: Wait a minute. *(checks his device)* It says here that chameleons climb trees.

Nick: Nicky! Any brown lizards in that tree?

Nicky: Nope.

Evan: It also says that chameleons prefer running water, like that fountain.

Nick: Nicky! Any brown lizards in the fountain?

Nicky: Nope.



Scenes Plays are often divided into scenes that organize the story.

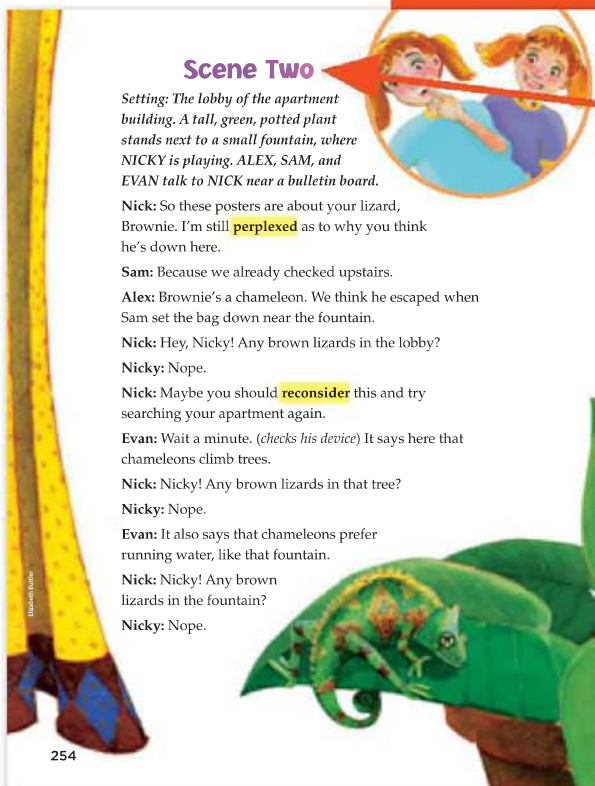
Stage Directions Stage directions tell actors how to speak dialogue and where they should move.

COLLABORATE



Your Turn

How do the events in Scene 1 of “Where’s Brownie?” lead to the events in Scene 2? What do you learn from the stage directions?



Adages and Proverbs

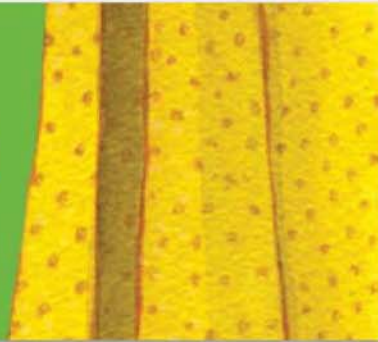
Adages and proverbs are traditional sayings that are often repeated. You can usually use surrounding words and sentences to help you understand the meaning of an unfamiliar saying.



Find Text Evidence

On page 253, the narrator of “Where’s Brownie?” disagrees with an adage, “Two heads are better than one.” It must be a common saying. In this case, the “two heads” are her own and that of her twin. Since her twin “makes problems worse rather than better,” the narrator probably prefers to figure out things on her own.

Narrator: Whoever claimed that “two heads are better than one” never met my twin sister.



Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Use context clues and other textual evidence to explain the meanings of the following adages and proverbs from “Where’s Brownie?”

better late than never, page 253

out of sight, out of mind, page 255

absence makes the heart grow fonder, page 255



Readers to . . .

Writers develop characters by providing descriptive details. They also show what characters are like through their actions, dialogue, and what others say about them. Reread these descriptions from “Where’s Brownie?”

Expert Model

Develop Character

What methods does the author use to describe the two sisters in this section?

How do the setting details of the first scene show the differences between Sam and Alex?

SAM and ALEX JENSEN: Twin sisters with different personalities. Sam is athletic and outgoing. Alex is quiet and studious.

Setting: A two-person bedroom in an apartment. SAM sits at a messy desk, creating a poster. EVAN works at a clean desk. Nearby are an empty terrarium and a paper bag that is wet and torn at the bottom.



Writers



Editing Marks

- ^ Add
- ^, Add a comma.
- ✂ Take out.
- sp Check spelling.
- ≡ Make a capital letter.

Laura wrote a short story about two chefs who discover a new dessert. Read Laura's revision of this section.

Grammar Handbook

Pronouns

See page 463.

Student Model

It's Messalicious!

Chef Andre and Chef Tim
raced around the ^{cramped and crowded} kitchen. "Look
^{you silly kid} out!" Andre shouted. "I've got hot
chocolate here!"

"Look out!" Tim said. "I've got
^{oh ancient one} frozen fruits here!" ^{with a smile}

Bam! The two hefty chefs ~~bumped~~
~~into each other and~~ collided. "What
a mess!" Andre said. Chocolate ^{spilled} all
over the berries. "A delicious mess,"
he added. "we have our new ^{dessert} desert!"

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



- How does Laura establish the characters and the setting of her story?
- Look at the kinds of pronouns Laura used.
- Tell how Laura's revisions improved the story.

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