Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Stagehands Wear Black

Circle group

In a play, actors do the talking. But some helpers work behind the scenes. They are called stagehands.

Stagehands move chairs and tables. They pull the curtains. They change the big painted pictures that show where the story is. They do this while the play goes on.

Nobody should see them. So they wear all black. The stage lights are bright. But the sides of the stage are dark. Black clothes blend in with the dark. The audience does not notice.

When stagehands do well, the audience sees only the story.

Questions

1. What are the helpers behind the scenes called?

_____

_____

2. What is one thing stagehands move?

_____

_____

3. What color do stagehands wear?

_____

_____

4. Why do black clothes help stagehands?

_____

_____

5. When do stagehands do well?

_____

_____

Words to know

stagehands: workers who help a play run smoothly
actors: people who play parts in a story
audience: the people who watch a show

curtains: large pieces of cloth that hang across a stage

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Stagehands Wear Black

Triangle group

In a play, the actors do the talking. But a team of helpers works behind the scenes. They are called stagehands.

Stagehands move the chairs and tables. They pull the curtains. They change the big painted pictures that show where the story takes place. Sometimes they must do this while the play is going on.

So that nobody sees them, stagehands wear all black. The stage lights are bright, but the sides of the stage are dark. Black clothes blend in with the dark, so the people in the seats do not notice.

The stagehands work quietly and quickly. When they do a good job, the audience only sees the story.

Questions

1. What are the helpers behind the scenes called?

_____

_____

2. What is one thing stagehands move?

_____

_____

3. What color do stagehands wear?

_____

_____

4. Why do black clothes help stagehands?

_____

_____

5. When do stagehands do a good job?

_____

_____

Words to know

stagehands: workers who help a play run smoothly
actors: people who play parts in a story
audience: the people who watch a show
curtains: large pieces of cloth that hang across a stage

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Stagehands Wear Black

Square group

In a play, the actors do all of the talking, but a whole team of helpers works behind the scenes. These workers are called stagehands.

Stagehands carry the chairs and tables from place to place. They open and close the curtains. They also change the large painted pictures that show where the story takes place. Sometimes they have to do all of this while the play is still going on.

To keep from being noticed, stagehands dress in all black. The lights on the stage are bright, but the sides of the stage are dark. Black clothing blends in with the darkness, so the people sitting in the seats do not see them.

Stagehands work quietly and quickly. When they do their jobs well, the audience sees only the story.

Questions

1. What are the helpers who work behind the scenes called?

_____

_____

2. What is one thing that stagehands carry from place to place?

_____

_____

3. What color do stagehands dress in?

_____

_____

4. Why does black clothing help stagehands go unseen?

_____

_____

5. When have stagehands done their jobs well?

_____

_____

Words to know

stagehands: workers who help a play run smoothly
actors: people who play parts in a story
audience: the people who watch a show
curtains: large pieces of cloth that hang across a stage

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Why Stagehands Wear Black

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Why Stagehands Wear Black

Easier · 91 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. Stagehands.
2. Chairs or tables.
3. Black.
4. They blend in with the dark, so the audience does not see them.
5. When the audience sees only the story and does not notice them.

Triangle: Why Stagehands Wear Black

This passage · 111 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. Stagehands.
2. Chairs or tables.
3. Black.
4. They blend in with the dark, so the audience does not see them.
5. When the audience only sees the story and does not notice them.

Square: Why Stagehands Wear Black

Harder · 130 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. Stagehands.
2. Chairs or tables.
3. Black.
4. It blends in with the darkness, so the audience does not see them.
5. When the audience sees only the story and does not notice them.