Name: _____ Date: _____

The Sound Makers Behind the Movie Screen

Circle group

When you watch a movie, you hear galloping horses, crackling fires and crashing waves. Many of these sounds were not made on the set. They were made later by workers called foley artists.

A foley artist watches the movie and makes sounds to match. The artist uses ordinary things. To make a horse go clip clop, the artist may knock two coconut shells together. To make a fire crackle, the artist may crumple cellophane.

Why not use the real sounds? They are often too quiet. Or other noise gets mixed in. Made sounds can be clean and clear.

The artist must watch closely. The sound must happen at the exact moment. Then the audience never guesses.

Questions

1. What are the sound workers called?

_____

_____

2. How can an artist make the sound of a horse?

_____

_____

3. What can be crumpled to sound like a crackling fire?

_____

_____

4. Why are sounds added later?

_____

_____

5. Why must the artist watch the screen closely?

_____

_____

6. What if the timing were wrong?

_____

_____

Words to know

foley: the art of making everyday sounds for movies
cellophane: a thin, clear, crinkly sheet of wrapping
audience: the people who watch or listen

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: _____

The Sound Makers Behind the Movie Screen

Triangle group

When you watch a movie, you hear galloping horses, crackling fires and crashing waves. Many of these sounds were not recorded on the set. They were made later by workers called foley artists.

A foley artist sits in a studio and watches the film. Then the artist invents sounds to go with it, using plain objects. Two coconut shells knocked together can sound like a horse trotting. A sheet of cellophane, when crumpled, can sound like a crackling fire.

Why not keep the sounds from the set? Often those sounds are too quiet, or other noise gets mixed in. Sounds made later can be clean and clear.

Careful watching is the key. If a character steps on screen, the sound must land at that exact moment. When the timing is right, nobody in the audience guesses that coconuts or cellophane were used.

Questions

1. What are the workers who make movie sounds called?

_____

_____

2. How can a foley artist make the sound of a horse walking?

_____

_____

3. What can be crumpled to sound like a crackling fire?

_____

_____

4. Why do movie makers add sounds later?

_____

_____

5. Why does a foley artist have to watch the screen closely?

_____

_____

6. What would happen if the timing were wrong?

_____

_____

Words to know

foley: the art of making everyday sounds for movies
recorded: saved so it can be played again
cellophane: a thin, clear, crinkly sheet of wrapping
audience: the people who watch or listen
timing: when something happens

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: _____

The Sound Makers Behind the Movie Screen

Square group

While you watch a movie, you hear galloping horses, crackling fires and crashing waves. Many of those sounds were never captured on the set. They were produced afterward by specialists known as foley artists.

A foley artist studies the film and creates sounds to match each action. The tools are surprisingly ordinary. To imitate the clip clop of a horse, the artist might knock two coconut shells together. To imitate a crackling fire, the artist might crumple a sheet of cellophane.

Why not simply use the sounds from the set? The real sounds are frequently too quiet, or unwanted noise gets mixed in with them. Sounds made later can be clean and clear.

The artist must watch with great care. When a character steps onto the screen, the sound has to occur at precisely that moment. When the timing is right, the audience never suspects that the sound came from coconuts or cellophane.

Questions

1. What are the specialists who produce movie sounds called?

_____

_____

2. How might an artist imitate the sound of a horse walking?

_____

_____

3. What might be crumpled to imitate a crackling fire?

_____

_____

4. Why are sounds often made later instead of using the set sounds?

_____

_____

5. Why must the artist watch the film with great care?

_____

_____

6. What might the audience notice if the timing were wrong?

_____

_____

Words to know

foley: the art of making everyday sounds for movies
cellophane: a thin, clear, crinkly sheet of wrapping
audience: the people who watch or listen
timing: when something happens

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: The Sound Makers Behind the Movie Screen

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

Circle: The Sound Makers Behind the Movie Screen

Easier · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. Foley artists.
2. By knocking two coconut shells together.
3. A sheet of cellophane.
4. Real sounds can be too quiet or have other noise mixed in.
5. The sound must happen at the exact moment of the action.
6. The audience might notice the sound does not match.

Triangle: The Sound Makers Behind the Movie Screen

This passage · 142 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.6

1. Foley artists.
2. By knocking two coconut shells together.
3. A sheet of cellophane.
4. The real sounds can be too quiet or have other noise mixed in.
5. The sound must happen at the exact moment the action does.
6. The audience might notice that the sound does not match the picture.

Square: The Sound Makers Behind the Movie Screen

Harder · 153 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. Foley artists.
2. By knocking two coconut shells together.
3. A sheet of cellophane.
4. The real sounds can be too quiet or mixed with unwanted noise.
5. The sound has to happen at precisely the same moment as the action.
6. That the sound does not match the picture.