Name: _____ Date: _____

The Dresser Who Helps Actors Change in Seconds

Circle group

In a play, an actor may walk off the stage as a farmer. A moment later, the actor comes back as a king. The crowd never sees how. Behind the curtain, a costume dresser makes it happen.

A quick change is planned like a race. First, the dresser lays out each piece of clothing. They go in the exact order the actor will put them on. Each piece is placed where it can be found in the dark. The backstage area is dim so the glow does not reach the crowd.

Quick-change costumes are built in a special way. They often have snaps, zippers, or hook-and-loop fasteners instead of tiny buttons. These open fast. A coat may be sewn so it slips on from the back. Some hats and wigs are pinned so they can be fixed in one move.

The dresser has other jobs too. Costumes are washed, mended, and checked before each show. If a seam splits in the show, the dresser fixes it with a few stitches. The actor and dresser practice the change many times. So they can finish it in seconds.

Questions

1. What does a costume dresser do for an actor?

_____

_____

2. How does the dresser lay out the clothes?

_____

_____

3. Why is the backstage area dim?

_____

_____

4. What is used instead of tiny buttons?

_____

_____

5. What else does the dresser do?

_____

_____

6. Why is a quick change like a race?

_____

_____

7. Why do the actor and dresser practice many times?

_____

_____

Words to know

dresser: a person who helps actors put on their costumes
costume: clothing worn by an actor to play a part
backstage: the area behind the stage that the audience cannot see
fastener: something that holds clothing closed
mend: to fix something that is torn or broken

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 Dresser Who Helps Actors Change in Seconds

Triangle group

In a play, an actor may walk off the stage as a farmer and return a moment later as a king. The audience never sees how it happens. Behind the curtain, a costume dresser makes the change possible.

A quick change has to be planned like a race. First, the dresser lays out each piece of clothing in the exact order the actor will put it on. Everything is placed in a spot that can be found in the dark, since backstage areas are kept dim so the glow does not reach the audience.

Costumes for quick changes are built differently. Instead of lots of tiny buttons, they often have snaps, zippers, or hook-and-loop fasteners that open fast. A coat might be sewn so that it can be slipped on from the back. Some hats and wigs are pinned in a way that can be fastened in one motion.

The dresser has other jobs too. Costumes are washed, mended, and checked before each show. If a seam splits during a performance, the dresser fixes it in a few stitches. Because the actor and dresser practice the change many times, they can finish it in seconds.

Questions

1. What does a costume dresser do for an actor?

_____

_____

2. How does the dresser lay out the clothing for a quick change?

_____

_____

3. Why is the backstage area kept dim?

_____

_____

4. What fasteners are used instead of tiny buttons?

_____

_____

5. What else does the dresser do besides helping with quick changes?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage compare a quick change to a race?

_____

_____

7. Why do the actor and dresser practice the change many times?

_____

_____

Words to know

dresser: a person who helps actors put on their costumes
costume: clothing worn by an actor to play a part
backstage: the area behind the stage that the audience cannot see
fastener: something that holds clothing closed
mend: to fix something that is torn or broken

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 Dresser Who Helps Actors Change in Seconds

Square group

In a play, an actor might stride off the stage as a farmer and reappear moments later as a king. The audience never witnesses how this transformation occurs. Behind the curtain, a costume dresser makes it possible.

A quick change must be planned with the precision of a race. To begin with, the dresser arranges every piece of clothing in the exact sequence in which the actor will put it on. Each item is positioned in a spot that can be located in the dark, because backstage areas are kept dim so that no glow reaches the audience.

Costumes designed for quick changes are constructed differently. Rather than numerous tiny buttons, they frequently feature snaps, zippers, or hook-and-loop fasteners that open rapidly. A coat might be sewn so that it can be slipped on from behind, and some hats and wigs are pinned in a way that allows them to be secured in a single motion.

The dresser carries out other responsibilities as well. Costumes are washed, mended, and inspected before every show. Should a seam split during a performance, the dresser repairs it with a few stitches. Since the actor and the dresser rehearse the change many times, they are able to complete it in seconds.

Questions

1. What does a costume dresser do for an actor?

_____

_____

2. How does the dresser arrange the clothing for a quick change?

_____

_____

3. Why are backstage areas kept dim?

_____

_____

4. What fasteners replace numerous tiny buttons?

_____

_____

5. What other responsibilities does the dresser carry out?

_____

_____

6. Why does the passage compare a quick change to a race?

_____

_____

7. Why do the actor and the dresser rehearse the change many times?

_____

_____

Words to know

dresser: a person who helps actors put on their costumes
costume: clothing worn by an actor to play a part
backstage: the area behind the stage that the audience cannot see
fastener: something that holds clothing closed
mend: to fix something that is torn or broken

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 Dresser Who Helps Actors Change in Seconds

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

Circle: The Dresser Who Helps Actors Change in Seconds

Easier · 189 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.8

1. Helps the actor change costumes fast backstage.
2. In the exact order the actor will put them on.
3. So the light does not reach the crowd.
4. Snaps, zippers, or hook-and-loop fasteners.
5. Washes, mends, and checks the costumes before each show.
6. Each step is planned and done fast to finish in time.
7. Practice makes the steps smooth and fast, so nothing goes wrong in the show.

Triangle: The Dresser Who Helps Actors Change in Seconds

This passage · 197 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. Helps the actor change costumes quickly backstage.
2. In the exact order the actor will put it on.
3. So the light does not reach the audience.
4. Snaps, zippers, or hook-and-loop fasteners.
5. Washes, mends, and checks the costumes before each show.
6. Every step must be planned and done fast to finish in time.
7. Practice makes the steps smooth and fast so nothing goes wrong during the show.

Square: The Dresser Who Helps Actors Change in Seconds

Harder · 209 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. Makes it possible for the actor to change costumes quickly backstage.
2. In the exact sequence in which the actor will put it on.
3. So that no glow reaches the audience.
4. Snaps, zippers, or hook-and-loop fasteners.
5. Washing, mending, and inspecting the costumes before every show.
6. It must be planned with precision and done rapidly to finish in time.
7. Rehearsal makes the steps smooth and quick, so nothing goes wrong during the show.