Name: _____ Date: _____

Foley Artists and the Sound of Footsteps

Circle group

When you watch a movie, it feels like every sound was recorded on the set. But many small sounds are made later. They are made in a quiet studio by a worker called a Foley artist.

There is a reason. The crew records the actors' voices on the set. But the microphones also pick up wind, cars and the crew. Footsteps and slamming doors often sound weak. So the team takes those sounds out and makes new ones.

Foley artists work like performers. They watch the film on a screen. A walker steps on gravel, wood, tile or dirt. The steps match the speed of the person on the screen. Old tape, crumpled in the hands, can sound like a fire. A snapped stick of celery can sound like a breaking bone. Real objects often sound less real than a substitute. So a Foley studio can look like a junk shop.

Timing matters. If a sound is a little late, people feel that something is wrong. Good Foley goes unnoticed. You just believe the hero is walking in snow. Really, someone is squeezing a bag of cornstarch.

Questions

1. What is the job of a Foley artist?

_____

_____

2. Why are the sounds from the film set often replaced?

_____

_____

3. What do Foley artists watch while they work?

_____

_____

4. What can a bag of cornstarch make?

_____

_____

5. Why do artists use props that are not the real object?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say good Foley goes unnoticed?

_____

_____

Words to know

Foley: the art of making everyday sound effects for films
substitute: something used in place of something else

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: _____

Foley Artists and the Sound of Footsteps

Triangle group

When you watch a movie, it feels as if every sound was recorded right on the set. In fact, many of the small noises you hear were made later, in a quiet studio, by a specialist called a Foley artist. The craft is named after an early sound worker who helped invent it, and it is still used on films, shows and games today.

The reason is practical. A camera crew usually records the actors' voices, but the microphones can also pick up wind, traffic and the crew's own movements, so footsteps, rustling clothes and slamming doors often sound weak or messy. Instead of keeping these sounds, the team removes them and builds fresh ones while watching the finished picture on a screen.

Foley artists work like performers. A walker in a studio may step across a floor covered with patches of gravel, wood, tile and dirt, matching the speed and weight of each footstep on screen. A bundle of old cassette tape, crumpled in the hands, can sound like a brush fire, and a stalk of celery snapped in half can stand in for a breaking bone. Because the real object is often less convincing than a substitute, artists collect strange props, and a Foley studio can look like a junk shop.

Timing is everything. If a sound lands even a fraction of a second late, an audience notices that something feels wrong, even if they cannot say why. Good Foley is meant to go unnoticed. Viewers should only believe that the character really is crunching through snow, when the truth is that someone is squeezing a bag of cornstarch.

Questions

1. What is the job of a Foley artist?

_____

_____

2. Why are the sounds from the film set often replaced?

_____

_____

3. What do Foley artists watch while they work?

_____

_____

4. What can a bag of cornstarch be used to make?

_____

_____

5. Why do artists often use props that are not the real object?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say good Foley goes unnoticed?

_____

_____

Words to know

Foley: the art of making everyday sound effects for films
specialist: a person with skill in one particular kind of work
convincing: able to make people believe something is real
substitute: something used in place of something else
props: objects used by performers or in a scene

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: _____

Foley Artists and the Sound of Footsteps

Square group

When you watch a film, it feels as though every sound was captured on the set at the moment of filming. In reality, many of the subtle noises you hear were produced afterward, in a hushed studio, by a specialist known as a Foley artist. The craft takes its name from an early sound worker who helped to pioneer it, and it remains essential to films, television shows and video games.

The reasons are largely practical. A film crew generally records the actors' voices, but the microphones inevitably capture wind, traffic and the crew's own movements as well, so footsteps, rustling clothing and slamming doors frequently sound thin or muddled. Rather than keeping these recordings, the sound team strips them out and builds replacements while studying the finished picture on a screen.

Foley artists behave a great deal like performers. A walker in the studio may cross a floor divided into patches of gravel, wood, tile and soil, matching the pace and weight of every footstep that appears on screen. A bundle of old cassette tape, crumpled between the hands, can imitate a crackling brush fire, and a stalk of celery snapped in two can stand in for a breaking bone. Because the genuine object is so often less convincing than a clever substitute, artists collect odd props over the years, and a working Foley studio can resemble a junk shop.

Timing is everything. If a sound arrives even a fraction of a second late, an audience senses that something is wrong, even when no one can explain why. Excellent Foley is meant to pass without notice. Viewers should simply believe that the character is truly crunching through snow, when the truth is that someone nearby is squeezing a bag of cornstarch.

Questions

1. What is the job of a Foley artist?

_____

_____

2. Why are the sounds recorded on the film set often replaced?

_____

_____

3. What do Foley artists study while they work?

_____

_____

4. What can a bag of cornstarch be used to imitate?

_____

_____

5. Why do artists often choose props that are not the real object?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say excellent Foley passes without notice?

_____

_____

Words to know

Foley: the art of making everyday sound effects for films
specialist: a person with skill in one particular kind of work
convincing: able to make people believe something is real
substitute: something used in place of something else
props: objects used by performers or in a scene

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: Foley Artists and the Sound of Footsteps

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

Circle: Foley Artists and the Sound of Footsteps

Easier · 187 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.4

1. To make sound effects, like footsteps, in a studio after filming.
2. The microphones pick up noise, so the sounds can seem weak.
3. The film on a screen.
4. The sound of footsteps in snow.
5. A substitute can sound more real than the real thing.
6. When it matches the picture, people just believe it and do not think about how it was made.

Triangle: Foley Artists and the Sound of Footsteps

This passage · 271 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.5

1. To create and record everyday sound effects, like footsteps, in a studio after filming.
2. The microphones pick up unwanted noise, so the sounds can seem weak or messy.
3. The finished picture on a screen.
4. The sound of footsteps crunching through snow.
5. A substitute often sounds more convincing than the real thing.
6. When it matches the picture perfectly, viewers just believe what they hear and do not think about how it was made.

Square: Foley Artists and the Sound of Footsteps

Harder · 292 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10.3

1. To create and record everyday sound effects, like footsteps, in a studio after filming is finished.
2. The microphones capture unwanted noise, so the sounds can seem thin or muddled.
3. The finished picture, shown on a screen.
4. The sound of footsteps crunching through snow.
5. A clever substitute often sounds more convincing than the genuine thing.
6. When it matches the picture perfectly, viewers simply believe what they hear and do not wonder how it was made.