

VIRTUAL LESSON

LET'S LEARN ABOUT PLAYS:

Week 2

The Day the Internet Died

by Rene BeVier Dill

Week 2: *Students read Scene 1 and learn about stage directions, dialogue, in medias res, and conflict, through online exploration by using examples from the play. At the end of this lesson, students explore critical thinking by connecting what is going on in this play to what is currently happening during our own crisis.*

Age Group: Middle School



Read scene 1 of the play, [The Day the Internet Died](#) on the Stage Partners website or by purchasing a Script PDF Pack for your class.

Lesson on Stage Directions

1. Look up the words stage directions in your search engine. **Type in stage directions definition.** Put this definition into your own words.

2. Here is an example of a stage direction. Type in the missing word.

The mayor stands at a lectern, bangs a _____.

3. How are stage directions written? (Look specifically at the way words look and how stage directions start and finish.)

Lesson on Dialogue

1. Look up the word **dialogue** in your search engine. **Type in dialogue definition.** Put this definition into your own words.

2. Please type in the missing words of **dialogue** that you see on page 7 of the script between Agnes and Erica.

AGNES: You know darn well what our order of _____ is!

ERICA: Give us our _____ back!

Lesson on "In Medias Res"

1. Look up the words **in medias res** in your search engine by typing **in medias res definition.** Put the definition in your own words.

2. After you have read the first scene, how does the play start *in medias res*? (In other words, what is the problem or crisis that the characters find themselves plunged into?)

Lesson on Conflict

There are four different types of conflicts:

What is a conflict? (A problem that exists between people or forces.)

*Person versus Person - Two equally opposing forces have a conflict.

Example: John and Jenni run against each other for the class president.

*Person versus Society - One singular force against a larger one.

Example: John must go against the school administration to allow for snacks to be eaten in class.

*Person versus Nature - One person (or several) going against nature or the unknown. Nature can be either the natural world, or the supernatural world.

Example: John must fight a strange virus that is attacking everyone's smartphones.

*Person versus Self - One person going against problems with their own self, which could be illness or something else, including addiction or bad behaviors.

Example: John is unable to sleep and his lack of sleep is causing him to see things that aren't there.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are two key types of conflict in this play according to the four different types found above? **Why do you think so?**
2. The Mayor offers interesting advice at the end of Scene 1. What is the advice?
3. How do you see this advice given by the Mayor in the play happening in our own current situation?
4. What opportunities (change that makes things possible to do something new, and usually good) have you discovered?
5. What has the current COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic taken away from you?
6. What opportunities has it given you?

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