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21M.732 Beginning Costume Design and Construction
Fall 2008

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Questions you should ask yourself after reading the play:

What is this play about in literal terms?

What is this play about in general or metaphorical terms (CONCEPT)?

What is the style of the play?

Realism? Expressionism? Romanticism

What is the location of the play?

Country/Continent? City/Country? Indoors/Outdoors?

Specific Space?

What is the time of the play?

Year/Time/Period? Season/Weather? Time of Day/Occasion?

What does the action of the play call for?

Are there any references to clothing in the text?

Where (to who) does focus need to be pulled to and when?

What is a play concept?

“A light-heated romp in the woods”

“A Mel Brooks Vaudeville routine”

“A violent page ripped out of the newspaper”

“A giant Polish joke”

“An art deco jukebox”

Also ask about each individual character:

What is the character's Age?

Social class?

Financial position?

Social Attitude?

Marital Status?

Health?

Moral Attitude?

Job?

Mental State?

Education?

Country of origin?

Present home?

Dramatic Metaphor:

My love is *like* a red red rose vs. My love *is* a red red rose

Examples:

The tailor is a prancing pincushion

Kate is too hot to handle

Hortensio is a horny toad

Bianca is good enough to eat if you don't mind sugar poisoning

What does the action require the character to do?

Are there any textual references that mention a character is dressed certain way?

What was the character planning/thinking when he/she put on his/her clothes?

What kind of body does the character have?

How does he/she walk? Sit? Gesture? Stand?