

The Scriptwriter

LOW LEVEL 1

A

The Dress Shop

Character Descriptions

Three 15-year-old girls who are best friends.

Carly – attractive with long straight light brown hair and huge blue eyes

Emily – average height, very pretty with short black hair and dark eyes

Kate – tall, thin with curly blonde hair, popular and very attractive

Summary

The three girls are in a dress shop. Emily tells Carly that her father is in the hospital. She can't go to the dance because she has to take care of her little sister. Her friends feel sorry for her and skip the dance to go spend time with her.

B

Scene: A dress shop

Kate: (*excited, holding up several dresses. Talking to her friends*) These are great. I'm going to try them on (*goes inside a change room*)

Carly: (*with an armful of clothes, holds up a dress and shows it to Emily*) This would look great on you, Emily. Why don't you try it on?

Emily: No thanks.

Carly: Why not? Aren't you getting a new dress for the dance too?

Emily: I can't go. My Dad is in the hospital and someone has to take care of my little sister and clean up the house.

Carly: Oh I'm sorry. Have you told Kate about it yet?

Emily: No and I don't want to. She's so excited about the dance and the three of us going together. I don't want to spoil her fun.

Carly: I think you should tell her she has a right to know too.

Emily: I know. Well anyway I'll wait for you at the door.

(*Kate enters*)

Kate: Where's Emily?

Carly: She's over by the door.

Carly: (*continues to flip through the dresses on the rack, pondering whether she should tell Kate or not*)

Kate: I know that you know a secret about Emily. You have that look on your face

Carly: (*turning to face Kate*) Ok the reason Emily is not picking out a dress is because she can't go to the dance with us.

Kate: Why?

C

Carly: Because her dad is in the hospital and she has to take care of her little sister and clean up the house.

Kate: Bummer (*pauses*) Wait! I have an idea. Since Emily can't come to the dance we should go help her you know how bratty her little sister can be.

Carly: Sounds like a good plan

Kate: Lets go tell her now.

(Kate and Carly walk over to Emily and throw their arms around her and tell her their plan.)

Emily: (*Starting to sob*) But you were so excited about the dance. Would you really give it up for me?

Kate and Carly: Of course. We three always stick together.

Emily: What wonderful friends you are!
(The girls exit.)

Teacher's Notes

Knowledge/Understanding

- The student provides information about the characters that is of very limited appropriateness. The character descriptions merely provide irrelevant details about the appearance of the three girls (e.g., colour of hair and eyes) and indicate nothing about their personalities. It is also difficult to distinguish the three characters from one another until the script reveals that Emily has difficulties at home and cannot attend the upcoming dance.

Thinking/Inquiry

- The student portrays character development with limited effectiveness. The situation, in which three teenaged friends try on dresses for a dance, is realistic, and Emily gains new insight into friendship by recognizing that friends are there for one another in good times, such as going to dances, and also in bad times, such as family emergencies. However, there is no indication of Kate's motivation for making her sacrifice, and Carly seems to be a mere conduit for receiving and passing on information.

Communication

- The student creates dialogue that is convincing to a limited degree. An attempt is made to provide dialogue that is appropriate for teenagers (e.g., "Bummer. . . Wait! I have an idea. Since Emily can't come to the dance we should go help her you know how bratty her little sister can be."). However, abruptness in much of the dialogue (e.g., "**Carly:** Sounds like a good plan. **Kate:** Lets go tell her now.") prevents discussion and does not always allow for adequate development of the action.
- The student provides stage directions that are of limited appropriateness. Their use at the beginning of the scene is promising (e.g., Kate is vividly described as "*excited, holding up several dresses*"). However, subsequent directions for movement are few, and little direction is given as to how the characters are to deliver their lines.

LOW LEVEL 1

Application

- The student creates a working script that is of limited effectiveness. A dress shop is provided as the setting, but no further details are given that could assist in the staging of the script (e.g., information about the décor, props, location of items). Although tension, a climax, and a resolution are present in the script, they occur in such quick succession that their effect is weakened.

Comments

This work is representative of a low level-1 performance. The student demonstrates a limited degree of achievement of the expectations in the Thinking/ Inquiry, Communication, and Application categories of knowledge and skills. However, in the Knowledge/Understanding category, the student demonstrates a very limited degree of achievement.

Next Steps

In order to improve his or her performance, the student needs to:

- provide adequate character descriptions;
- ensure that all characters have purposeful roles;
- provide a more in-depth examination of friendship in the script;
- create dialogue that is more developed and less abrupt;
- provide sufficient stage directions;
- describe the setting more fully;
- expand the script to increase its dramatic effect.