

Welcome to *Laguna*

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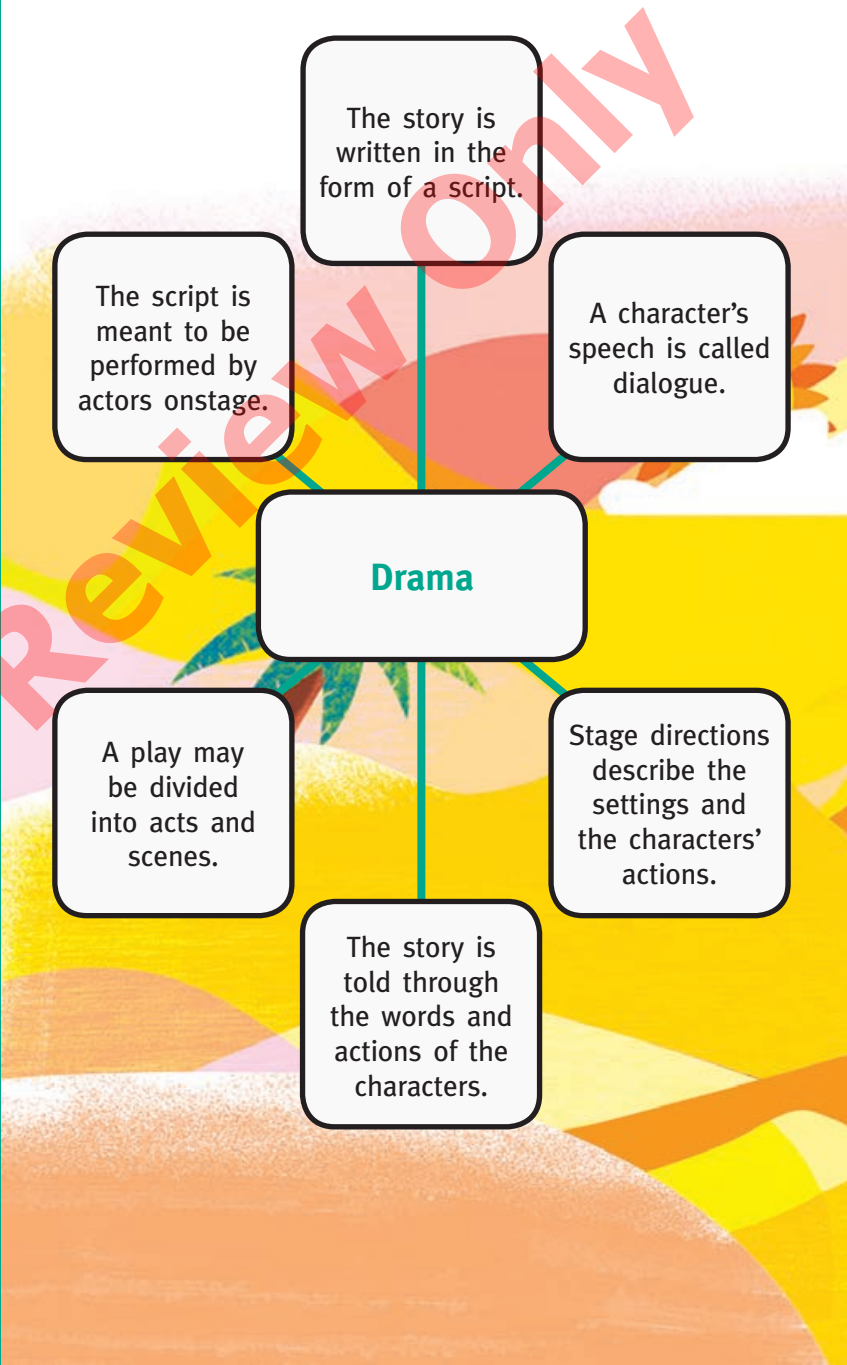


DRAMA
LITERATURE

Level	T/50
Lexile®	NP

Drama

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



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Welcome to Laguna

CAST OF CHARACTERS

in order of appearance



Ty

11-year-old boy; plays the part of the Alien



Frankie

12-year-old boy; plays the part of Dax, an alien hunter



Simone

11-year-old girl; plays the part of an extra



Cameron

12-year-old boy; the Director



Deirdre

12-year-old girl; plays the part of Elanda, an alien hunter



Nick

a new kid; brother to Alex



Alex

a new kid; brother to Nick

SETTING

various places around Laguna, California

Always an Extra

(Lights up on a suburban street in Laguna, a beach town in Southern California. CAMERON is behind a video camera directing. FRANKIE and DEIRDRE are chasing TY down the street. SIMONE is watching from the sidewalk.)

The Alien (Ty): (running) You'll never catch me, human!

Dax (Frankie): (running) Oh yes we will, alien!

Simone: I don't get it.

Cameron: Cut! ... Simone! You are supposed to be an extra! Extras are meant to just be silent in the background, not interrupt the shoot. You're ruining my shot!

Simone: I'm just trying to help. Why are they having a conversation in the middle of the chase? Also, why does the alien speak English? And why does he look like a regular human with cheap, Halloween headgear?



Deirdre: She's got a point. Several, actually.

Ty: Besides, I don't want to be an alien anymore. I want my character to be a shape-shifter.

Cameron: No, no, no! Ty, you are an alien! We've already filmed three other scenes with you wearing that costume!

Ty: Yeah, well, I've been thinking about it, and it makes more sense for my character to be a shape-shifter.

Cameron: You can't just change the nature of your character in the middle of filming!

Ty: Oh, but that's what a shape-shifter does best!

Deirdre: I like the idea of a shape-shifter, too. It's clever. Less predictable.

Frankie: If he's not the alien anymore, then I think I should be the alien.

Simone: Hey, guys, check it out—a moving van. (*SIMONE walks toward the van. NICK is struggling to carry a big chair.*) Do you need some help with that?

Nick: No, thanks. I got it.

(*NICK puts down the chair but then does a pratfall.*)

Simone: (*trying not to laugh*) What are you doing?

Nick: (*overdramatically*) This thing has got it in for me! I'm doomed!

(SIMONE picks the chair up off of NICK.)

Nick: Phew! Thanks. Wow! You must have superpowers.

Simone: Um, sure, if you say so. I'm Simone.

Nick: I'm Nick.

(CAMERON, FRANKIE, DEIRDRE, and TY walk toward NICK and SIMONE.)

Deirdre: Hey, Simone, who's your friend?

Nick: I'm Nick. I was watching you guys. What's with the old-timey video camera? Looks like fun.

Cameron: (snobbily) We are a film club. If you want to watch, we're selling tickets.

Simone: (to NICK) We just make movies. Well, try to anyway. We're not very good.



Ty: Speak for yourself! I'm about this close to an Academy Award nomination.

Deirdre: As a shape-shifter?! You've been only one shape! But good luck with that Oscar.

Ty: Hmm, ... you're right. Okay, then, I'll be a werewolf.
AH-OWWWWWW!

Frankie: (*sarcastically*) Nice. You sound like a basset hound that stubbed its toe.

Simone: (*to NICK*) Mostly, we just shoot chase scenes and stuff. It's fun.

Cameron: It's art! ... Well, this has been a blast, but we have to finish shooting before we lose the sunlight.

(CAMERON, TY, DEIRDRE, and FRANKIE walk back to where they were filming.)



Simone: (*pointing at a house*) I live right there. So I guess that makes us neighbors.

Nick: Hello, neighbor. I'm kind of an actor myself. Did you actually think I couldn't lift that chair? I was watching you guys, so I thought I'd try out for a role.

Simone: You did fool me. Cam thinks I'm not a very good actor. I'm always an extra. He can be pretty stubborn, but we've all been friends forever. What acting have you done?

Nick: I did a few school plays and had a very small role in a community theater production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

Simone: Maybe you can help me teach Cam a lesson. He never gives me a chance to do any real acting. I want to show him that I'm good at it!

Nick: I dunno, I just met you guys and I'm not sure it would be smart to stick my nose where it doesn't belong.

Simone: Okay, I guess you're right.

Nick: (*with a bow and hand flourish*) And that, Simone, is called acting! Of course I'll help you. What else do I have to do?

Alex: (*from offstage*) Nick!

Nick: Oh, right. I have to move in. Stop by later and we'll plan it all out. (*NICK carries the chair into the house.*)

Simone: (*to herself*) This is going to be fun.

(*Lights fade to black.*)

Strange Signs

(Lights up on a playground. It's the next day. CAMERON, DEIRDRE, TY, FRANKIE, and SIMONE are preparing to film a chase scene on the monkey bars.)

Deirdre: Remind me again what scene this is.

Cameron: In this scene, the alien hunters and the alien are—

Ty: Not alien, werewolf.

Cameron: *(sighs)* Fine. The werewolf ... who just happens to look like a human wearing alien antennae ...

Ty: You're right. That doesn't make sense. I'll be a goblin.

Cameron: *(sighs)* It's a chase scene.

Simone: What a surprise! All action and no plot! And what is my role in this scene, exactly?



Cameron: (*flipping through the script*) *Um*. It says here you're an extra.

Simone: (*sarcastically*) Wow, really?!

Frankie: Hey, Simone, you'll have a bigger part in the next movie, I'm sure.

Deirdre: Yeah, Simone, what's the big deal?

Simone: No big deal, really. I love playing an extra. Every. Single. Time. ... Anyway, I invited Nick to come hang out today. He should be here soon.

Cameron: What? It's a closed set!

Simone: (*looks around*) There are kids everywhere, Cam. Where do you think you are? This is Laguna. Hollywood is fifty miles north of here.

Cameron: I just don't think you should have invited some new kid without asking us.

Frankie: I don't mind.

Deirdre: Me, neither. He seemed cool.

Simone: See? Just play nice, Cam. What's the big deal, right? He's new to town and lives next door to me. My mom said I should do the neighborly thing. (*NICK enters.*) Hey, Nick, over here!

(*NICK walks over to the monkey bars.*)

Cameron: So, Nick ... what's your story? Where are you from? Why'd you move here?