

Boost Free Lessons - Year 10 English

Lesson 14: Reading Drama: Character Connections

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Read the script extract below carefully. Stage directions are shown in square brackets. The line numbers will help you refer to specific parts.

Script: The Handover

- 1 [A workshop. Tools on the wall, each with its outline painted behind it.
- 2 VIC, sixties, wipes a bench that is already clean. JOSIE, thirty, stands
- 3 with a folder she has not opened.]
- 4
- 5 JOSIE: I'm not going to change the name.
- 6
- 7 VIC: I didn't ask.
- 8
- 9 JOSIE: You've asked twice this week without asking.
- 10
- 11 VIC: The spanner set goes back on the wall. Not the drawer. On the wall,
- 12 where the shape is.
- 13
- 14 JOSIE: I know where the shape is.
- 15
- 16 VIC: Your father never once put them back.
- 17
- 18 JOSIE: [after a pause] No. He didn't.
- 19
- 20 [VIC stops wiping.]
- 21
- 22 VIC: I painted those outlines the week he started. Thought if he could see
- 23 the gap he'd fill it. Twenty-two years, and he never did, and I never said
- 24 anything, and now I've told you inside of ten minutes.
- 25
- 26 JOSIE: You told me because I'm not him.
- 27
- 28 VIC: [sitting down] I told you because you're the one who's still here.
- 29
- 30 [Pause. JOSIE opens the folder for the first time.]
- 31
- 32 JOSIE: There's a page in here about the name. It says keep it.
- 33
- 34 VIC: I know. I wrote it.



Worked Example 1

How does the writer establish the relationship between Vic and Josie?

1. Relationships in drama are built from what characters know without being told.
2. Josie identifies an unasked question in line 9, showing long familiarity with how Vic communicates.
3. Vic gives instructions about spanners rather than discussing the handover, which shows he deflects.
4. The absent third character does most of the work: both discuss Josie's father without addressing him.

Model: The relationship is built through indirection. Josie recognises Vic's unasked question “without asking” (line 9), and both discuss Josie's father through an argument about tools, which shows a long shared history neither will address openly.

Remember: In drama, watch what characters do while talking, and who is **absent** from the room but present in the conversation. Position and movement often carry what the dialogue avoids.



Question 1: Answer the following questions. Give the line numbers you used in your answers.

1. Where is the scene set?

2. What is Vic doing when the scene opens?

3. What is Josie holding?

4. Where does Vic say the spanner set belongs?

5. How long did Josie's father work there?

6. What does the page in the folder say?



Question 2: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Explain the significance of the painted outlines behind the tools.

2. What does the detail of Vic wiping an already clean bench suggest?

3. Explain the effect of Vic sitting down when he does.

4. Explain what Josie means when she says *You told me because I'm not him*.

5. Explain the significance of the final exchange about the folder.





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Answers and Model Responses: Reading Drama: Character Connections**Question 1**

1. A workshop.
2. Wiping down a bench that is already clean.
3. A folder she has not opened.
4. On the wall, where the shape is.
5. Twenty-two years.
6. Keep the name.

Question 2

1. Model: The outlines are a system for making an absence visible, painted so that a missing tool announces itself. They stand for Vic's whole approach: he does not confront people, he arranges things so the gap is obvious and waits. That Josie's father never filled them for twenty-two years shows the method failed, and that Vic persisted with it anyway shows why he never said anything either.
2. Model: It gives him something to do while avoiding the conversation, and the fact the bench is already clean shows the activity is a pretext. It also establishes his need for order before the outlines are explained.
3. Model: He sits immediately before the most direct line he speaks. Standing has kept him in charge of the room; sitting concedes that, and marks the moment he stops managing the handover and answers honestly.
4. Model: She recognises that Vic's twenty-two years of silence were specific to her father, not a general habit. Being told within ten minutes means Vic has judged that she will not repeat his father's failure, which is both a compliment and a comparison she did not ask for.
5. Model: Josie announces she will not change the name before opening the folder, and the folder already tells her to keep it. Vic wrote down what he could not say aloud, and Josie decided it without being asked. The exchange shows they agree entirely and have spent the scene arguing anyway, which is the clearest statement of how this relationship works. Vic's flat *I know* confirms he expected her answer before she gave it.

