Reader’s Theater Analysis

Oral Interpretation

**Critical Investigation:**

The following information needs to be used to prepare your analysis and is due on the day of the final:

Observe Character Development:

* make notes on what your character is feeling/communicating during the delivery of individual words and phrases.
  + include imagery to stimulate an emotional response that comes from memory, not merely language.

Answer the following Questions:

* What are the motivations of your character?
* How do the elements of plot and range of emotions form a dramatic arc for the story?
* What would it feel like to experience what your character experience?
* How would you think or act if you were them?
* When making a jump from one section of text to another, think about the how rough the transition will be. List those transitions
* Note shifts in time and location
* moments of flowery description
* what are the contributions of minor characters
* when do characters or relationships change
* Identify when and how conflicts evolve, especially incidents of escalation and resolution.
* Note emotionally affective sections (find the funny, sad, exciting, disturbing, and different).

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IMAGERY:

* Look at your script (from the first word). On a piece of paper write what you see and when.

MOTIVATION: For each selection find out moment by moment what the motivation is.

Why do they do what they do?

* Note where the shift in the verbs occur. Most of the verbs will be similar in their main foundation until they shift.
  + List these actions and verbs
  + Find the character’s motivations by what s/he states, and s/he actually does.

RELATIONSHIP: Start with a questions

* What is my relationship with the characters in this piece?
* List emotions and attitudes of how your character feels about the other characters in the piece:
  + Example: Do you love him? Do you hate her? Do you want to help him? Do you resent her? These are the most important questions.

CONFLICT:

* What are you fighting for? “What is your goal in this scene?”
* Why do I want it?
* What do I think I will get when I achieve my goal?
* How do you get what you want? What are your Tactics?

THE MOMENT BEFORE:

* what you are doing - what was it?

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**:

**Voice Qualities: address how each of the following is used to create your character:**

* Pitch**:** Refers to how high or low the tone of one’s voice. Inflections (changes in pitch) can communicate meaning and feeling.
* Volume: Make it appropriate to the imagined context (where the character is) and audible to the audience (where you the performer are).
* Tempo/Rate: Fast: suggests happiness, anger, annoyance, anxiety, surprise
* Slow: complexity, sadness, uncertainty, boredom, lethargy, agedness,
* Emphasis and Pausing are critical in giving words added complexity, gravitas, and power.
* Articulation: Clearly form the syllabic sounds that produce intelligible speech. Some characters might have speech impediments or fatigue may cause slurring.
* Pronunciation: Speaking a word as it is articulated correctly in a different culture; use of accents or dialects may be appropriate for some characters.
* Resonance: the prolongation and intensification of sound produced by transmission of its vibrations to a cavity (use of a breathy, nasally, raspy, or preacher-like voice).