

2nd
READ

Reading with a Writer's Eye

Stage Directions

- ◆ Explain that playwrights use stage directions to provide information about the characters' movements, facial expressions, and how they say the dialogue.
- ◆ *On page 95, what do the stage directions tell us that Mr. Hughes does with Langston's poem? He crumples it and throws it in the wastebasket.*
- ◆ *How does this action reinforce the central conflict of the plot? By throwing away the paper, Mr. Hughes demonstrates his complete disregard for what Langston loves to do—write.*
- ◆ Have students give examples of stage directions that help them better understand the characters and plot.

Differentiating
Instruction

English Learner

IF . . . students are not familiar with stage directions in English, **THEN . . .** tell them that *enter* means to "go onto the stage" and that *exit* means "to leave the stage." Demonstrate entering and exiting the classroom to help students understand.

Langston (*Hurriedly*):

It's nothing. I'll get it. (Mr. Hughes picks up paper, glances at it, and frowns.)

Mr. Hughes:

Is this one of your poems?

Langston (*Sheepishly*):

Yes. (Reaches for paper, but Mr. Hughes crumples it.)

Mr. Hughes (*Sternly*):

You won't have any more time for poetry. (Drops paper into wastebasket and puts arm around Langston's shoulders) We'll talk later about what courses you'll take at Columbia University next year. You'll have to study a lot of science and math. (They exit. Señora Garcia takes crumpled paper from wastebasket, smooths it out.) **8**

Señora Garcia (*Sadly*):

Poor Señor Langston. Why can't his father just accept him the way he is? (Puts paper in desk drawer and exits. Curtain) **9**



95



Teacher Tip

CHECKING UNDERSTANDING Ask students one or more of the following questions to ensure that they understand what they are reading.

- *Is anyone confused?*
- *Do you need clarification?*
- *Can you summarize what you have read so far?*
- *Does what you are reading make sense to you?*

STOP

You have read the first scene of the play. Continue the play tomorrow on page 96.