Standards Focus

Objectives

Students will
- analyze elements of drama and informational texts
- identify synonyms
- use writing as a tool for learning and research

Review

Guided Practice

If necessary, use the annotations to guide students in their reading before they answer the questions.

? Stage Directions

What do Laura's dialogue and demeanor (indicated in the stage directions) reveal about her character? ***Possible response:*** *She is shy.*

? Dialogue

What does the dialogue on this page reveal about Jim? ***Possible responses:*** *He is self-confident and sophisticated. He knows Laura might be shy, so he is trying to make her comfortable.*

Test-Taking Tip

Explain to students that understanding the definitions of literary terms such as *play, tragedy, comedy, climax, resolution, monologue, soliloquy,* and *aside* before they take a test is important and helpful.

SKILLS FOCUS pp. 966–969

Literary Skills
- Analyze elements of drama.

Writing Skills
- Write to describe.

PREPARING FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS

Literary Skills Review

Drama **Directions:** Read the following excerpt from a play. Then, respond to the questions that follow.

from The Glass Menagerie

by **Tennessee Williams**

Build Background This scene takes place in the Wingfield apartment, in the rear of a large building. The apartment faces an alley and is entered by a fire escape. Laura's brother, Tom, has invited Jim, a friend from work, to dinner as a "gentleman caller" for Laura. The electricity has just gone out, and candles have been lit. Tom and his mother have gone into the kitchen to do the dishes, leaving Laura and Jim to get acquainted. They have just decided to sit on the floor.

from Scene 7

Characters:

Laura Wingfield. A childhood illness has left her crippled, one leg slightly shorter than the other, and held in a brace.
Jim O'Connor. A nice, ordinary, young man.

Jim. Take a pillow!

[LAURA *does. She sits on the floor on the other side of the candelabrum.* JIM *crosses his legs and smiles engagingly at her.*]

I can hardly see you sitting way over there.
Laura. I can—see you.

Jim. I know, but that's not fair, I'm in the limelight.

[LAURA *moves her pillow closer.*]

Good! Now I can see you! Comfortable?
Laura. Yes.
Jim. So am I. Comfortable as a cow! Will you have some gum?
Laura. No, thank you.
Jim. I think that I will indulge, with your permission. (*He musingly unwraps a stick of gum and holds it up.*) Think of the fortune made by the guy that invented the first piece of chewing gum. Amazing, huh? The Wrigley Building is one of the sights of Chicago—I saw it when I went up to the Century of Progress. Did you take in the Century of Progress?
Laura. No, I didn't.
Jim. Well, it was quite a wonderful exposition. What impressed me most was the Hall of Science. Gives you an idea of what the future will be in America, even more wonderful than the present time is! (*There is a pause.* JIM *smiles at her.*) Your brother tells me you're shy. Is that right, Laura?

Resources for Skills and Standards Review

Collection 8 Resources, Collection Summative Test, p. 43, Collection Vocabulary Review, p. 40

Differentiating Instruction, below-level Collection Summative Test

Teacher One Stop™, editable Collection Summative Test

Standardized Test Preparation Workbook: English/Language Arts Skills

ThinkCentral Online Assessment, Collection Summative Test

ThinkCentral Online Remediation

Holt Online Essay Scoring

Laura. I—don't know.
Jim. I judge you to be an old-fashioned type of girl. Well, I think that's a pretty good type to be. Hope you don't think I'm being too personal—do you?
Laura *(hastily, out of embarrassment).* I believe I *will* take a piece of gum, if you—don't mind. *(Clearing her throat)* Mr. O'Connor, have you—kept up with your singing?
Jim. Singing? Me?
Laura. Yes. I remember what a beautiful voice you had.
Jim. When did you hear me sing?

[LAURA *does not answer, and in the long pause which follows a man's voice is heard singing off-stage.*]

Voice:
"Oh blow, ye winds, heigh-ho,
A-roving I will go!
I'm off to my love
With a boxing glove—
Ten thousand miles away!"

Jim. You say you've heard me sing?
Laura. Oh, yes! Yes, very often . . . I don't suppose—you remember me—at all?
Jim *(smiling doubtfully).* You know I have an idea I've seen you before. I had that idea soon as you opened the door. It seemed almost like I was about to remember your name. But the name that I started to call you—wasn't a name! And so I stopped myself before I said it.
Laura. Wasn't it—Blue Roses?
Jim *(springing up, grinning).* Blue Roses! My gosh, yes—Blue Roses! That's what I had on my tongue when you opened the door! Isn't it funny what tricks your memory plays? I didn't connect you with high school somehow or other. But that's where it was; it was high school. I didn't even know you were Shakespeare's sister! Gosh, I'm sorry.
Laura. I didn't expect you to. You—barely knew me!
Jim. But we did have a speaking acquaintance, huh?
Laura. Yes, we—spoke to each other.
Jim. When did you recognize me?
Laura. Oh, right away!
Jim. Soon as I came in the door?
Laura. When I heard your name I thought it was probably you. I knew that Tom used to know you a little in high school. So when you came in the door—well, then I was—sure.
Jim. Why didn't you *say* something, then?
Laura *(breathlessly).* I didn't know what to say, I was—too surprised!
Jim. For goodness' sakes! You know, this sure is funny!

Guided Practice

? Dialogue

Ask students to note lines of dialogue that reflect Jim's personality and to explain what that aspect of his personality is. ***Possible response:*** *The lines beginning "I judge you to be an . . ." reveal that he is observant. He is respectful because he clarifies his statements by asking Laura if he's being too personal.*

? Stage Directions

What might the stage direction beginning "Laura does not answer . . ." reveal about the voice that sings? ***Possible response:*** *The man singing could be Jim since Laura seems to be thinking back to a past event that only she hears. Jim does not seem to respond to the singing, only to the fact that Laura does not respond to his question.*

? Dramatic Structure

What does Jim realize about Laura? ***Possible responses:*** *Jim realizes that he went to high school with Laura. He also realizes that she may like him.*

Guided Practice

? Conflict

What inner struggles does Laura seem to deal with? ***Possible response:*** *Laura is shy, insecure, and socially awkward. She's never been good at making friends, and she seems self-conscious about her leg.*

? Dialogue

Have students note lines of dialogue that portray an aspect of Laura's character and explain what those lines hint about her. ***Possible response:*** *The line "I had to go clumping all the way up the aisle with everyone watching!" shows that she is shy and self-conscious of her leg.*

Test-Taking Tip

Tell students that when they study for a test, they should try to anticipate what items might be on the test and focus on remembering them. Remind them that what the teacher has emphasized in class is also likely to be on the test.

Literary Skills Review CONTINUED

Laura. Yes! Yes, isn't it, though. . .
Jim. Didn't we have a class in something together?
Laura. Yes, we did.
Jim. What class was that?
Laura. It was—singing—chorus!
Jim. Aw!
Laura. I sat across the aisle from you in the Aud.
Jim. Aw.
Laura. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
Jim. Now I remember—you always came in late.
Laura. Yes, it was so hard for me, getting upstairs. I had that brace on my leg—it clumped so loud!
Jim. I never heard any clumping.
Laura *(wincing at the recollection).* To me it sounded like—thunder!
Jim. Well, well, well, I never even noticed.
Laura. And everybody was seated before I came in. I had to walk in front of all those people. My seat was in the back row. I had to go clumping all the way up the aisle with everyone watching!
Jim. You shouldn't have been self-conscious.
Laura. I know, but I was. It was always such a relief when the singing started.
Jim. Aw, yes, I've placed you now! I used to call you Blue Roses. How was it that I got started calling you that?
Laura. I was out of school a little while with pleurosis. When I came back you asked me what was the matter. I said I had pleurosis—you thought I said *Blue Roses.* That's what you always called me after that!
Jim. I hope you didn't mind.
Laura. Oh, no—I liked it. You see, I wasn't acquainted with many—people. . . .
Jim. As I remember you sort of stuck by yourself.
Laura. I—I—never have had much luck at—making friends.
Jim. I don't see why you wouldn't.
Laura. Well, I—started out badly.
Jim. You mean being—
Laura. Yes, it sort of—stood between me—
Jim. You shouldn't have let it!
Laura. I know, but it did, and—
Jim. You were shy with people!
Laura. I tried not to be but never could—
Jim. Overcome it?
Laura. No, I—I never could!
Jim. I guess being shy is something you have to work out of kind of gradually.
Laura *(sorrowfully).* Yes—I guess it—

Word-Attack Skills Mini-Lesson

Review Use the activities below to check students' grasp of the word-attack skill taught in this collection.

Activity Have students choose which word in each pair has a long *e* sound.

1. a. side b. feet [*b*]
2. a. veil b. hear [*b*]
3. a. here b. end [*a*]
4. a. counteract b. please [*b*]
5. a. meek b. perhaps [*a*]
6. a. weep b. collect [*a*]
7. a. happiness b. cities [*b*]
8. a. lesson b. honey [*b*]

Jim. Takes time!
Laura. Yes—
Jim. People are not so dreadful when you know them. That's what you have to remember! And everybody has problems, not just you, but practically everybody has got some problems. You think of yourself as having the only problems, as being the only one who is disappointed. But just look around you and you will see lots of people as disappointed as you are.

1. This excerpt from the play consists mostly of —
   - **A** monologues
   - **B** narration
   - **C** dialogue
   - **D** asides

2. From the **dialogue** in this excerpt, we learn that —
   - **A** Jim and Laura knew each other in high school
   - **B** Jim has often thought about Laura
   - **C** Laura collects little glass animals
   - **D** Laura and Jim have been dating each other

3. Laura's lines in the play indicate that —
   - **A** she never liked Jim much
   - **B** she has always remembered Jim
   - **C** Jim was mean to her in school
   - **D** she and Jim were once close friends

4. Which statement accurately sums up these two **characters** in this excerpt?
   - **A** They enjoy a lively clash of wits.
   - **B** They are both falling in love.
   - **C** Jim is more confident than Laura.
   - **D** Laura is much wiser than Jim.

5. The **stage directions** for this scene mostly describe —
   - **A** what the characters do
   - **B** how the characters feel
   - **C** how the stage is set
   - **D** the scene's sound effects

Constructed Response

6. Using the dialogue and the stage directions as clues, describe the characters of Laura and Jim. Support your ideas by citing text passages.

Assess

Independent Practice

Answers and Explanations

1. ***C*** *The entire excerpt is a dialogue between Jim and Laura.*
2. ***A*** *Jim and Laura discuss how they knew each other. The excerpt does not mention glass animals (C). Jim has not often thought about Laura (B) nor are they dating (D).*
3. ***B*** *The dialogue does not support the assumption that Laura never liked Jim much (A). On the contrary, it is apparent that she has always remembered him fondly. He had a nickname for her, Blue Roses, but it was not meant in a mean way (C). Jim and Laura were acquaintances, not close friends (D).*
4. ***C*** *Laura is very self-conscious in this excerpt, while Jim is full of confidence. They are not engaged in a clash of wits (A) nor are they falling in love (B), although it is apparent that Laura likes Jim. The wisdom of the characters is not in question (D).*
5. ***A*** *The stage directions do mention how the characters feel (B), but the majority of them mention what the characters do.*

Constructed Response

6. ***Possible response:*** *Laura is shy and self-conscious. She sits far away so that Jim cannot see her, she seems uneasy. Jim is more self-assured and sophisticated. He is at ease with Laura and encourages her to be more assertive and to meet new people.*

Reteach

ThinkCentral Online Remediation