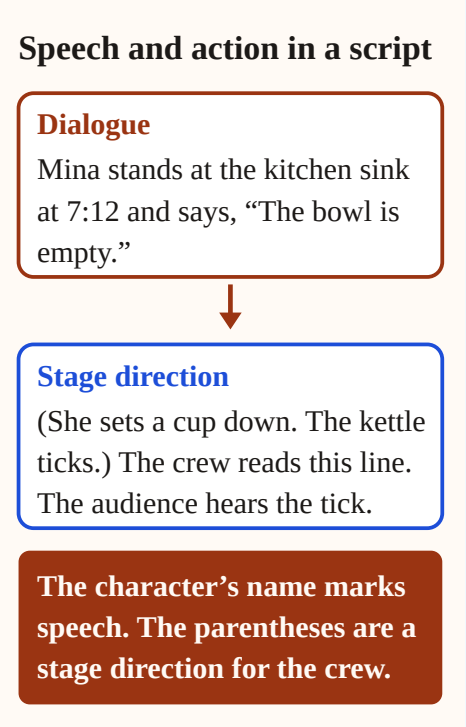
English Language Arts 10-1

Unit 4: Create and refine texts

Form and convention

A short narrative moment

- Dialogue. Mina stands at the kitchen sink at 7:12 and says, “The bowl is empty.”
- Stage direction. (She sets a cup down. The kettle ticks.) The crew reads this line. The audience hears the tick.
- The character’s name marks speech. The parentheses are a stage direction for the crew.



Choosing a form

- A story convention here is the kitchen setting, Mina as the character, the clink-to-door plot, and the conflict with the bus.
- A script convention puts MINA as the speaker name, then her spoken words, then a stage direction such as (The kitchen light snaps on.).
- A poem for the same key can use short lines and the image of metal resting in the blue bowl.

Key terms

convention

A shared habit of a form, such as a conflict in a story or a speaker name in a script.

chronological order

The telling of events in the time they happened, from the first clink of the key to the last step out the door.

stage direction

A parenthetical line for light, sound, or action, such as The kitchen light snaps on and a key clinks.

Story and script conventions

- Setting: the kitchen at 7:12.
- Plot: the clink of the key, then the walk to the door.
- Conflict: one spare key, and a bus that leaves on time.
- Script: MINA says, “The spare key is under the spoons,” and the parentheses say, “(The kitchen light snaps on. A key clinks.)”
- MOM answers, “Check the bowl before you run,” so the speaker names stay visible above each spoken line.

Example

- On the sidewalk the bus door opens, Mina’s sleeve catches, and the spare key taps the blue bowl in her bag. A poster places a photo of the caught sleeve beside a photo of the key still in the bowl.
- That sequence is chronological order, the events in the time they happened.
- The side-by-side photos are juxtaposed images, and together they suggest hurry.

Practice with a scene

- At 3:10 Mina's navy glove slips behind the art-room radiator while the class lines up at the door. She reaches, the line moves, and the glove stays.
- Put the lineup, the slip, and the reach in chronological order, and plan two juxtaposed photos: the glove and the empty hook.

Review

- At 11:20 Mina’s lunch tray tips in the cafeteria, the blue bowl on the tray slides, and a spare key skitters under the salad bar.
- Choose a story or a script, name one convention you will use, and list the events in clock order.