

Inside the character



2 Choose a character



Tick one character. Answer every panel as that character. Give a line number as evidence each time.

A Objective: what do they want most?

Start: I want to ... (line ...)

B Obstacle: what is in their way?

A person, a fear, a fact or a feeling.

C Tactics: how do they try to get it?

Name two tactics, each with a line number.

D Given circumstances: the facts

Who, where, when, and what has just happened?

TACTIC VERBS

to dodge

to tease

to plead

to joke

to accuse

to protect

3 The relationship

How close are Tess and Jamie? Write S in a box for the start of the scene and E for the end.

DISTANT

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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CLOSE

HIGHER STATUS at the start: ☐ Tess ☐ Jamie at the end: ☐ Tess ☐ Jamie

Circle one name each time. What changes between them, and on which line? Explain.



Voice, movement and lines

4 Voice and movement

Pick one line your character says. Circle one choice in each row. Then explain your choices.

V Voice on line _____	M Movement on the same line
PACE ☐ slow ☐ steady ☐ fast PITCH ☐ low ☐ natural ☐ high VOLUME ☐ quiet ☐ normal ☐ loud Where is the pause? Which word gets the emphasis? What tone? Why? _____ _____ _____	POSTURE ☐ open ☐ closed ☐ tense PROXIMITY ☐ close ☐ apart ☐ moving away EYE CONTACT ☐ holds ☐ avoids Describe a gesture and a facial expression. Sitting or standing (levels)? Why? _____ _____ _____

5 Line by line objectives

For each line, write what the speaker wants from the other person. Start with "to" and an action verb. Example: line 6, Tess: *to stop Jamie waking Mum, and to end the conversation.*

1 Line 1 JAMIE <i>(holding it up)</i> Found this in the recycling. Under the cereal boxes. Objective: to ... _____ _____	2 Line 4 TESS <i>(standing, reaching out)</i> Give it here, Jamie. Objective: to ... _____ _____	3 Line 7 JAMIE When were you going to tell me? Objective: to ... _____ _____
4 Line 8 TESS <i>(sitting again, quietly)</i> I'm not going. So there's nothing to tell. Objective: to ... _____ _____	5 Line 12 TESS And who walks you to school? Who makes tea when Mum's on nights? Objective: to ... _____ _____	6 Line 15 JAMIE <i>(putting the letter down between them)</i> Don't stay because of me. Objective: to ... _____ _____



Subtext and performance

6 Find the subtext

HMM!

Subtext is what a character really means but does not say. Write each character's private thought.

Line 13, JAMIE: "I'm thirteen, not five. I can make toast."

JAMIE REALLY THINKS



Line 16, TESS: "I'm not staying because of you."

TESS REALLY THINKS



7 Rehearse and review

Rehearse the scene with a partner using your choices. Perform it for another pair. Ask them to tick what they saw and give feedback.

WE SAW ☐ a clear pause ☐ a change in proximity ☐ a change of level ☐ eye contact held or avoided

What worked: a line and a choice

Even better if: one change



GO FURTHER: DIRECT THE LAST MOMENT

Tess does not pick up the letter. Write a director's note: where each actor stands, what Tess does with her hands, and how long the silence lasts.

HOW DID I DO? ☐ Not yet ☐ Getting there ☒ Got it