

Extension of The Crossing by Cormac McCarthy
AP English Literature & Composition
Meyer-Maite

Play Writing

Please see this website written by screen writer John Dorf, received his B.A. Magna Cum Laude in dramatic writing and literature from Harvard College and his MFA in playwriting from UCLA. His work was crucial in adapting this project, and information provided in sections below will clarify goals.

<http://www.playwriting101.com/>

Key Concepts

1. The Play's the Thing and Types of Plays: 10 minute plays
2. Theatre Spaces: In the round
3. Story Structure and Write to be Read: Three part structure: Exposition, Complication, and Resolution
4. Story Development: Tips 1 through 10 are all important
10. Setting at Rise Description Element: Very important to develop

The Assignment

Create a play in which setting plays a vital role as it did in *The Crossing*. As Chopin did in *The Awakening* and Lee did in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, McCarthy provides a sense of place. The setting will, of course, be described in stage directions, but characters may also make reference to it in dialogue. Your play should have 3 or 4 characters. Numbers 3, 4 and 10 will be important to your grade as will be the actual performance. Play: 5 to 7 pages.

Parameters & Expectations

From story structure

_____ Exposition, Complication and Resolution

From story development

_____ A consistent world is created

_____ Conflict builds/create a ticking clock the provides stress

_____ Characters want something, which puts them in conflict with other characters

_____ There is a consequence, something at stake for a character that doesn't get what he or she wants.

_____ Provide a reason or event concerning why this moment in the lives of these people is significant.

_____ Write dialogue that illuminates both characters and plot

_____ Make each character speak in a distinctive voice

_____ Do not have a character tell us what they can show. It's more effective to hide under the bed than to say, "I'm afraid."

_____ Give each character an important moment, so that the audience can ponder complexity.

Setting at Rise

_____ Pay attention to Setting at Rise, and have a narrator to read this description dramatically. Provide a sense of place.

Performance

_____ Convincing and Polished

Authors should provide a statement of thematic intent and bullets on the scoring categories. Bullets should also be provided to defend your process, product, and creativity in terms of scoring components.