

education

ROUNDAABOUTTHEATRECOMPANY

Name: _____
Date: _____

How can we learn about setting and character through text analysis?

Read the following exchange from *The Understudy* and then answer the questions that follow:

ROXANNE

I couldn't find the prop gun. You don't have it, do you?

JAKE

No, there was some guy here. A janitor or something. He has it.

ROXANNE

There is no janitor scheduled to be in the building. (calling to the booth)
Can we have more lights on the stage? Laura! Are you up there?

JAKE

Some total fruitcake I thought he was a janitor and he was on the stage, yacking up a storm and he had the gun.

ROXANNE

He has it?

More lights pop up on the stage

ROXANNE (cont'd)

Laura, can you call security and then call the cops? There's someone in the theatre who is stealing props.

(then to Jake, while dialing her own cell)

What a nightmare. It's not exactly the easiest thing in the world to pick up a prop gun anymore. You practically have to sign your life away.

(on cell)

Hey, it's Roxanne, at the theatre, could you call me? We have a situation.

(hangs up)

Let's go through this. What did he look like?

JAKE

I don't know. He was kind of a skinny guy, maybe not skinny, but you know. Kind of...I don't know. Brown hair. Or gray maybe? Maybe thirty or so? Fifty? Yeah, like fifty. Or forty. Thirty.

- 1.) After reading the dialogue, where do you think this scene is taking place? What clues can you draw from the text to help you figure that out?

- 2.) What clues can you find in the text to discover who the mystery man with the gun might be?

3.) What clues can you find to help you discover who Laura might be?

4.) Based on their first impressions, what different assumptions do Jake and Roxanne make about the mystery man with the gun? What might this say about Jake and Roxanne themselves?
