Any story can’t be completed without any character. Each character must be represented in a theatrical play with effective characterization. It is the creation of character as revealed by the author of the story. As a literary device or portrayal, characterization may be considered as one of the most powerful. Writers use similes, metaphors, personification, and more to build a story. But what’s a story without a lead character? As such, characterization is merely another color of paint to the palette (in comparison to visual arts). Just as important as the theme of the play, characterization that was well thought of will build a sturdy foundation for everything to come. Characterization may be a portrayal or description.

COSTUMES

In a theatrical play, clothing may immediately communicate a thing or two about a certain character. It can immediately tell the audience about the character’s: Position and status, gender, occupation, the occasion or event the character was in, and a bit about the character’s personality (flamboyant/modest/independent/conformist/etc.).

There are four types of costumes that are used in a theatrical design:

Historical – Used if the characters will be portraying historical events. All historical costumes are apparels that actually exists during the period the story wants to portray. One of the most common historical costumes were the outfits worn by people during the middle ages and the Renaissance periods.

Fantastical – Costumes that are ridiculously odd or based on or existing only in fantasies. Unrealistic and extravagant. Mostly used on strange or unusual characterizations. Bizarre and striking that is heightened by striking contrasts and incongruities that shocks and fantasizes. A common example of this kind of costumes are outfits of cartoon characters or animal that talks and walks like a normal human being.

Dance – Costumes worn by dancers. A complete style of dressing, including all the clothes, worn in a play when performing in front of an audience. This includes warmers, belts, and any costumes used for the play.
Modern – Any costume that was based on the currently existing fashion or based on contemporary fashion is always considered as modern fashion. With fashion becomes a synonym to trending styles, in the present time, the trending fashion are being popular and have a great demand in the market. Population, culture and location has something to do with how the chosen style is appreciated.

WIGS

One of the final steps to completing an “on-stage” look are to put wigs and artificial hairs. A realistic mustache, hairpieces, hair extensions, and pantyhose that secure a person’s hair are used to create a more natural looking hairline. No costume is complete without the perfect theatrical quality wigs or artificial Human hair beards and moustaches to top it all off.

Wigs usually came from human hair that were sold by “hair merchants”. There were hair merchants all over the world, with the region determining the price, type, and quality of the hair. Natural hairs must go through an extensive preparation process before being put into the market. They take it, color it, dye it. Severe conditions like severe humidity often necessitate restyling because maintaining wigs from human hair for outdoor stage were hard for it always reacts to weather in a very unfortunate way.

The artificial hairs are not always human hair. Frequently, theatre companies use dyed yak hair or synthetic hairs. These types of hairs can be very useful for certain applications and are often preferred for building facial hairs.

THEATRE MAKE UPS

Same with wigs, make-ups in theatre improves the characterization. Wound scar, and burn make-up is used to portray realistic scenes in a play. Materials needed to portray this this includes: Nose putty, Derma wax, hairpin or paper clip for cutting through derma wax or putty, lubricating gel, cream liners, liquid latex, spirit gum, and spirit gum remover, and thinner. In order to portray blood, red food coloring is used with corn syrup, glycerin, clear dish-washing detergent, or peanut butter.

Though professional actors are usually responsible for applying the makeup designed by the costume designer, there are times when specialized makeup is needed for a production for one or more characters. During these periods, the production needs makeup artist to apply make up so that it will be consistent in every performance.

Because make up is chemically based and in contact with the performer’s skin in a certain period of time, the make up artists must also assess the performer’s medical history of allergic reactions (most artists have their own allergies) and ensure that all products used are safe for anyone using make up. As with any other theatre production, the makeup artist will generally be present for technical rehearsals either to apply the makeup as they will during the run of the show or to ensure that performers are properly using the makeup, and fulfilling the demands of the design. When necessary, makeup artist will also devise, create and apply any prosthetic pieces, or special effects makeup applications such as wound, scars or other modifying features that are required by the design.
A. Design your own version of any character from “Beauty and the Beast – Musical” theatrical play. The character design must be detailed with costume and facial design. The illustration must be drawn in your sketch pad or in an Oslo paper. You may use any art material(s) you feel comfortable of using (crayon/oil pastel/markers/acrylic/oil paints). Any paper orientation is allowed.

You may use the link below for the theatrical play reference https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyq5VI2486I&t=439s

B. Activity: Research and compare the different types of stage costumes by completing the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEATRE COSTUME TYPES</th>
<th>POSSIBLE THEATRICAL GENRE</th>
<th>THEATRICAL PLAY EXAMPLE (TITLE OF THE PLAY)</th>
<th>FAMOUS THEATRE CHARACTER WHO USED THE COSTUME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HISTORICAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FANTASTICAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANCE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODERN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions:
- Does wearing costumes important for a theatrical play? Why?
- How do makeups affect the characterization of every theatre actors? What will happen if the make up is no suited to the costume or the nature of the actor’s character?
- What characteristics of the character does the costume portray? What do you think will happen if the character’s personality doesn’t match his/her costume?

Note:
Always make it a habit of putting your name, Grade Level and track at the back of your activities.