



Getting Started  
Playwriting Questions to help the Young Playwright  
**(Please do not submit this with your play.)**

**Mood**

How does the painting, *Walk in My Shoes* by artist Michael Angelo Hernandez make you feel? Describe the mood of the painting: Can you describe certain images, colors, or shapes that make you feel this way? Does this painting connect to any experience(s) that you may have had?

**Theme**

Describe the theme of your play:

**Setting**

Describe the setting of your play:

**Playwright's Character Analysis (Answer for each character in your play.)**

1. What is the name of your character?
2. Describe your character physically? Include height, weight, facial features, and hair color. Also, be sure to note any outstanding physical trait or condition that makes your character unique.
3. How would you describe your character's stance, posture, walk, and movement?
4. What rhythm or tempo do you associate with your character? Think of a piece of music that would describe your character. Would the tempo be a waltz, a cha-cha, a march, country swing, or contemporary jazz?
5. What gestures, mannerisms, or habits does your character use unconsciously? Choose at least one.
6. How does your character dress? What is your character's style?
7. Describe your character's voice quality. Is it high or low, nasal or guttural? Do you speak with a drawl, twang, accent, or dialect? Do you make any unusual sounds, such as wheezing or grunting?
8. Think about your character's background. Where did your character grow up? What type of environment shaped your character's early life? What kind of relationship does your character have with your character's family?
9. Where does your character live now? What is your character's present family status?
10. Think about your character's intellect. How would you describe your character's mental capabilities?
11. What is your character's position in society? Is your character rich, poor, important, or powerful?
12. What are your character's attitudes, values, and beliefs?

Character Trait Organizer  
Use one for each character in your play  
**(Please do not submit this with your play.)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Play: \_\_\_\_\_ Character: \_\_\_\_\_

The diagram consists of a central human silhouette. Surrounding the silhouette are 20 empty circles, arranged in four groups of five. Each group of five circles is connected to a single larger central circle, which in turn is connected to the silhouette. This structure allows for organizing multiple traits for each of the four quadrants of a character's personality.