

BIG IDEA:

Portraying a believable character on stage begins with an actor's PHYSICAL movement choices for his/her character.

Something that affects what you do, what you think about, and how you express your emotions is your background...because present behavior is often determined by events of the past!

Ways you can determine your character's past/present behavior include finding out what

- 1.) the actor says about your character,
- 2.) your character says about the situation.
- 3.) the actor say about your character.

Questions to ask about your character's background (see back) include...

Questions to ask about your character's present circumstances (on back) include...

More than a character's lines, an audience believes a actor's background and present circumstances.

Playing a character believably allows an audience to suspend disbelief and believe you are the character you're portraying.

Physically portraying a character:

walk & stance

gestures

the part of the body a character "leads with" =

 Examples:

 Theory of human movement proposes that there is a
weight, speed, and direction to all movement =
Leads Movement

any movement of head, hands, arms, shoulders, legs,
 or feet to convey meaning= _____
 a repeated gesture by a character =
 _____ gesture or _____
 Examples:

**Questions to ask about a character's
BACKGROUND...**

1. What kind of family did I come from?
2. How did I interact with my family growing up?
3. Was it a well-adjusted home life or were there many conflicts?
4. Of what social status, and how much wealth/poverty did my family come from?
5. How have health issues influenced my life?
6. How intelligent am I and how much education do I have?
7. What do I do for a living, and why?
8. How old am I?
9. What are my religious or spiritual beliefs?
10. Am I an emotionally expressive person? Why or why not?
11. What is my best trait?
12. What do I want most out of life?
13. What is my relationship to the other characters in the play?

**Questions to ask about a character's
PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES...**

1. Where am I today?
2. Who is with me now?
3. What am I doing?
4. What is happening to upset my world?
5. How does that make me feel?
6. What do I want to do? [wants]
7. What is preventing me from doing it? [obstacles]
8. What am I going to do about it? [tactics]
9. How am I going to do this?
10. What do I stand to gain or lose?