

Fall Unit Study Guide

You should be able to:

- list two new words learned in this unit, define them, and use them correctly in a sentence
- combine two phobias, write the new phobia, and define it
- be able to explain what sequencing means
- name a book, author, and spook mentioned in the play “Spooks in Books”
- state the setting, conflict, and resolution of the plays “Spooks in Books” and “The Haunted Castle”
- name a main character and explain that character’s importance to the plot of either of the two plays
- name the major characteristics and parts of dramas, ads, and recipes
- write persuasively, using at least three different persuasive techniques
- compare two of the genres we’ve studied

Remember: In any written responses, you will be expected to:

- rephrase the question in your answer
- write in complete, correctly capitalized and punctuated sentences

Drama is better known as a play. This genre has several characteristics.

1. Dramas are written in the form of **dialogue**. This means it is written as if the characters are having a conversation. The character’s name is given, and then what the character is saying. Then the next character’s line is written, and so on. Dramas are set up so that stage plays, television shows, and movies can be produced from them. The people who play the parts of the characters are called **thespians**. This is another word for an actor or an actress.
2. Dramas contain **stage directions**. The stage directions are contained in parentheses, and they tell the thespian what to do during the dialogue. Some common stage directions are as follow:
 - a. “at rise”: This means at the very beginning of the play, when the curtain first rises, what follows is what the audience sees
 - b. “exit”: This tells the thespian to leave the stage
3. Dramas contain a **cast of characters**. This is a listing at the beginning of the play telling all the characters in the play.
4. Dramas set the scene at the beginning.

We read the drama “Spooks in Books.” The setting was a library on an October afternoon. The problem was that kids were locked in a library and spooks were coming out of books. The resolution was that they realized their imaginations were running away with them, and they used common sense. The following are some books mentioned in the play:

- The Black Cat by Edgar Allan Poe featuring Pluto as the spook.
- The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving featuring Brom Bones as the spook.
- The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, no author listed, featuring the haunted house as the spook.
- Hamlet by Shakespeare, featuring the Ghost as the spook.
- The Dance of Death by Saint-Saens, featuring Death as the spook.
- A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, featuring the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future as the spooks.
- American History, no author listed, featuring witches as the spooks.
- Common Sense, by Thomas Paine, with no spooks featured.

We also read the drama “The Haunted Castle.” The setting was long ago in a dark, distant land. The conflict was that no one would stay overnight in the haunted castle. The resolution was that the peddler did as the ghost asked him to, and the ghost went away for good.

Another genre is **advertisements**. Advertisements are also often called classifieds. Advertisements (ads) have the following characteristics.

1. They are nonfiction.
2. They are short, and to the point. They are designed to get across a lot of information using as few words as possible. They never use complete sentences. (Remember, usually you have to pay to place an ad; the longer it is, the more you have to pay.)
3. Their purpose is to sell something (or get rid of something in some way), buy something (or get something in some way), or inform others of something.

Most ads contain the following pieces of information.

1. The name of the person placing the ad
2. Some type of contact information for the person placing the ad
3. The purpose of the ad (to buy, to sell, to inform), and the necessary details to capture the attention and interest of the person reading the ad

Ads can be of the following types.

1. Want ad – the placer wants to buy or get something
2. Work wanted – the placer wants to get a job
3. Want to sell – the placer wants to sell something
4. Want to trade – the placer wants to trade something s/he has for something s/he wants
5. Informational – the placer wants to let the reader know about something

Ads are different from other genres we’ve studied because they are not story-based. They don’t try to entertain, or teach something.

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Another genre is that of **recipes**. A recipe has the following characteristics.

1. They are nonfiction (usually).
2. They are a numbered, **sequenced** list of steps to follow in order to produce something to eat or drink. The steps appear **in the order** that must be followed to create the product. Time-order, or transition, words give clues to the correct order.

Recipes contain the following parts.

1. title (this is the name of the food or drink)
2. ingredients (these are the things that can be consumed that are combined to produce the product; ingredients have two parts: the unit and the item)
3. equipment (these are the things that cannot be consumed that the person following the recipe needs to use in order to produce the product)
4. procedure (this is the numbered list of directions, what the reader has to do to produce the product; the directions are usually written as imperative sentences, capitalized and punctuated)
5. serving information (this contains the unit and the audience)
6. quite often, a recipe will have the name of the person who created it.

When you **persuade** someone, you try to convince them of something. There are many different methods of persuasion: bribery, begging, threatening, bargaining, giving good reasons, blackmailing, etc.

A **phobia** is an irrational fear of something that usually doesn't cause such fear. Phobias are fears so intense that they can interfere with a person's life. Some fears are common and make sense, like being afraid of heights or being enclosed in small spaces. Phobias are much more severe. Some phobias sound bizarre to those of us who don't suffer from them.

Unit Vocabulary

Alliteration: a type of rhyme that repeats beginning sounds

Blackmail: threatening someone in order to persuade them

Bribery: offering someone something they want in order to persuade them

Cast of characters: a listing of characters in a play

Classifieds: another word for "advertisements"

Consumed: eaten

Describe: give a detailed account based on observation

Dialogue: another word for "conversation"

Drama: another word for a play

Equipment: things used in a recipe that cannot be consumed

First person: writing as if you are there

Ingredients: things used in a recipe that can be consumed

Parentheses: where stage directions are found

Persuade: another word for "convince"

Phobia: an irrational fear of something

Revolting: disgusting

Sequenced: in order

Stage directions: tell the thespians what to do

Thespian: an actor or actress

Transition words: words that give clues to the order of sequenced events