

Sienna Bostwick

February 4, 2021

Feedback Letter: Script

This play, “Are You?”, has some authentic dialogue between the characters Kate and Paul. Some of the repetition that occurs between these characters felt as though it was dialogue for real people speaking to each other. On page 2, where Kate says, “Are you going to put that down?” and Paul responds with “What?” and Kate repeats the request, it makes sense given the repetitive nature of genuine conversation. This technique adds to the authenticity and ease with which the play flows.

Another point that works well for this piece is the characterization. It is clear that both characters have strong wants and juxtaposing ideas of how to make those wants come true. Because they both happen to contrast in this manner makes their dialogue more compelling. Paul’s conflict between his feelings is a good part of his character, and Kate’s vulnerability is certainly an aspect of hers to highlight throughout the play.

One thing that could be improved is the clarity of some of the lines of dialogue. When Kate and Paul speak to each other, some of the lines bounce off one another too quickly for the audience to understand. It feels as though in these circumstances the audience is missing the subtext for what the characters really mean. However, it is still relatively clear what the characters want. In these moments, it may be helpful to have a break by resolving the current subject of the conversation, at least to a degree, or have a longer pause that could be interrupted with a character action. In this regard, it feels as though Paul and Kate are the type of friends that finish each other’s sentences. This is a great device, however, there could be more context in different places to allow readers to join in on that shared information.

Another suggestion is that Kate and Paul could talk in circles more. With this kind of topic, they might be tempted to revisit certain lines where one lacks clarity because they do not know how the other feels. This sentiment is already present regarding Paul's sexuality talk, but it may create stronger emotions if direct pieces were repeated, such as on page 7, when the two are arguing about that subject. It may be advantageous in that conversation to have Paul consider his predicament a little more in current times at that moment, because overall he is very reactive. He could show more confusion upon broaching that he may be bisexual, and Kate may not believe it. The end could be circling around this subject, because Paul's sexuality is the elephant in the room for the two of them.

In terms of the conflict, it may benefit the story's structure to have some type of climatic choice. Who in your mind is the protagonist? Or the central character? This choice of who you want to make the choice to be friends or not, like Kate does as the end, may make the play more dramatic if we see more conflict in Kate's decision whether or not to remain friends with Paul. Paul could give Kate an ultimatum; things could become more awkward by broaching more details of their shared night together. There are possibilities to heighten the drama by the ending in this way, which complements the ending already presented as Kate refuses to answer Paul's final question.

I hope this helps you!

Sienna