TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

TROUPE SPOTLIGHT

EXAMPLE

GUIDELINES

Troupe Spotlight is a celebratory feature during the Opening Ceremonies at your Regional Junior Festival. This is not a competition, and there is no cost to participate. Create a single slide that showcases your troupe and celebrates your students.

- Create one (1) landscape slide using Canva, Google Slides, or Microsoft PowerPoint.
- Include your School Name and Junior ITS Troupe Number (if applicable).

What to Include

Your slide is your opportunity to tell your troupe's story. Be creative! Consider featuring:

- Theme: Show your Thespian pride and interpret the festival theme in your own way.
- Productions: Photos from recent productions, rehearsals, performances, and behind-the-scenes work.
- Student Leadership: Officers, crew heads, student directors, mentors, technical directors, and other student leaders.
- Technical Theatre: Lighting, sound, costumes, makeup, scenery, props, publicity, and design work.
- Community & School Service: Service projects, outreach, volunteer work, and school involvement.

TO SUBMIT email/share with Kendra.Willeby@texasthespians.org

TIPS

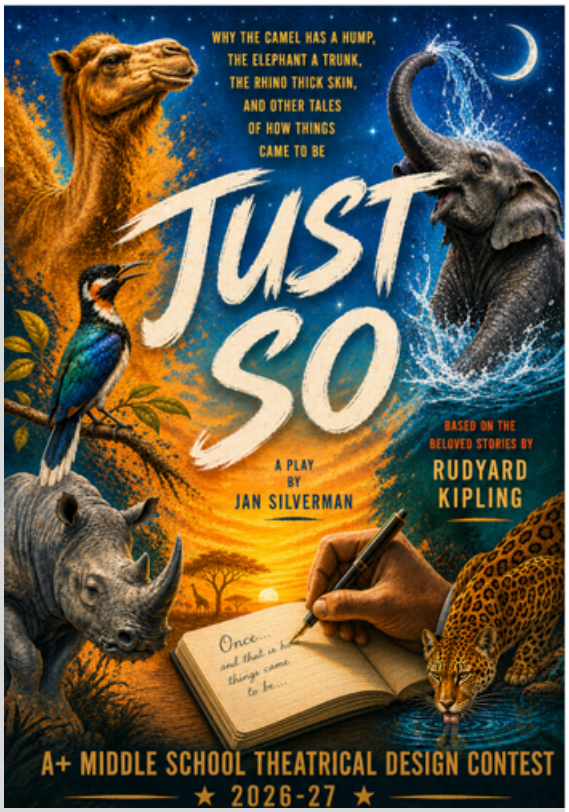
- Use high-quality photos and minimal text.
- Design with a large projection screen in mind.
- Most importantly, celebrate what makes your troupe unique!

Google Slides Template

Canva Template

TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

JUNIOR DRAMATIC DESIGN PROMPT



Contest Details

- Troupes can enter as many entries in these contests as they wish.
- Students can enter solo, in pairs or in groups (up to 4).
- These designs are completed at the Thespians home campuses and brought to contest to be judged during the contest day.
- The contest is closely aligned to UIL A++ Theatrical Design Contest.
- These designs are completed at the Thespians home campuses and brought to contest to be judged during the contest day.
- The contest is closely aligned to UIL A++ Theatrical Design Contest.
- Designs can be done digitally or by hand.
- Each of the four contest areas - Costume, Scenic Design, Hair and Makeup Design and Theater Marketing have their own set of rules and regulations. You can find all of the specifics for each contest on their individual one-pagers.
- 1st through 3rd place winners will be chosen in each of the four contest areas.
- The students projects will be graded during the day of the Junior Festival and students will not have access to power to power laptops or other technology to display their work. Work should be able to left to be judges.

Junior Dramatic Design is inspired by the UIL A+ Middle School Theatrical Design Contest and provides students with an opportunity to explore the creative process of theatrical design. This experience is designed to build foundational design skills while helping prepare students for future participation in UIL and other theatrical design opportunities.

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JUNIOR DRAMATIC DESIGN PROMPT

Prompt

Just So by Jan Silverman

OVERVIEW From their website:

Playwright Jan Silverman adapts the much beloved Just So Stories of Rudyard Kipling into a theatrical and strikingly imaginative stage play that can be performed for and by young theatre lovers. Including favorites tales such as “How the Camel Got His Hump,” “How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin,” “The Elephant’s Child,” “The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo,” “The Beginning of the Armadillos” and “The Cat That Walked by Himself,” Silverman playfully captures Kipling’s fascination with legends, the nature of humanity, and the way things became the way they are today. An enjoyable, timeless script for all ages, this play is appropriate for schools, community groups and both amateur and professional children’s theatres.

Script can be purchased through Concord Theatricals

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TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

COSTUME DESIGN

Texas Only Event

These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and are **not** national qualifying events.

RULES

Students accepting the Costume Design Challenge must submit the following:

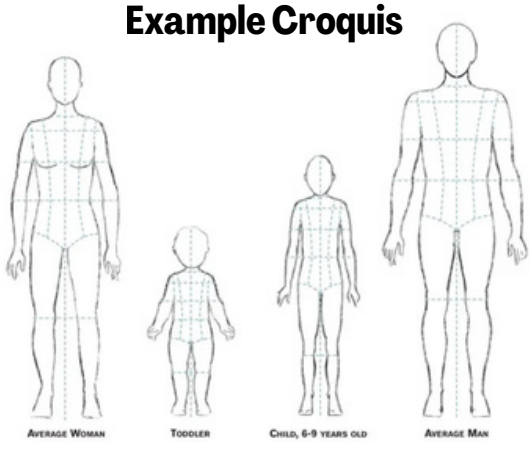
- Design Justification Paper (100-200 word) that explains how the designer addressed the prompt within their designs.
- Inspiration Collage showing any images/words/objects that inspired their design.
- Separate Color Renderings for (2) Characters from the play that must include the **Title of the Play**, **Act & Scene** and the **Name of the Character**.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Students may use **Croqui** to draw their designs. (*Professionals prefer realistic human-proportion drawings as opposed to stylized or cartoon caricature types.*)
- Any type of coloring media is permitted. Favorites include colored pencil, watercolor pencils, watercolor paints, markers and pens alone or in a mixture.
- Students may hand or computer draw their designs.
- Renderings may have a slight background such as a wall/floor color.
- Make sure labeling is very neat and readable
- Students may add fabric swatches but are not required to.

The GOAL of this entry is to convey what the designer feels are the most important elements of the prompt within their design and to illustrate effectively what the costumes should look like so the production crew can make it happen as intended.

Example Croquis



TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGN

Texas Only Event

These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and are **not** national qualifying events.

RULES

Students accepting the Hair & Makeup Design Challenge must submit the following:

- Design Justification Paper (100-200 word) that explains how the designer addressed the prompt within their designs.
- Inspiration Collage showing any images/words/objects that inspired their design.
- Separate Color Makeup/Hair Maps for (2) Characters from the play that must include the **Title of the Play**, **Act & Scene** and the **Name of the Character**.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Students may use the makeup map chart provided or create one of their own as a basis for showing their design.
- In drawings, any type of coloring media is permitted. Favorites include colored pencil, watercolor pencils, watercolor paints, markers and pens alone or in a mixture.
- Students may hand or computer draw their designs.
- Make sure all labeling is very neat and readable.

The GOAL of this entry is to convey what the designer feels are the most important elements of the prompt within their design and to illustrate effectively what the costumes should look like so the production crew can make it happen as intended.

Additional Notes:

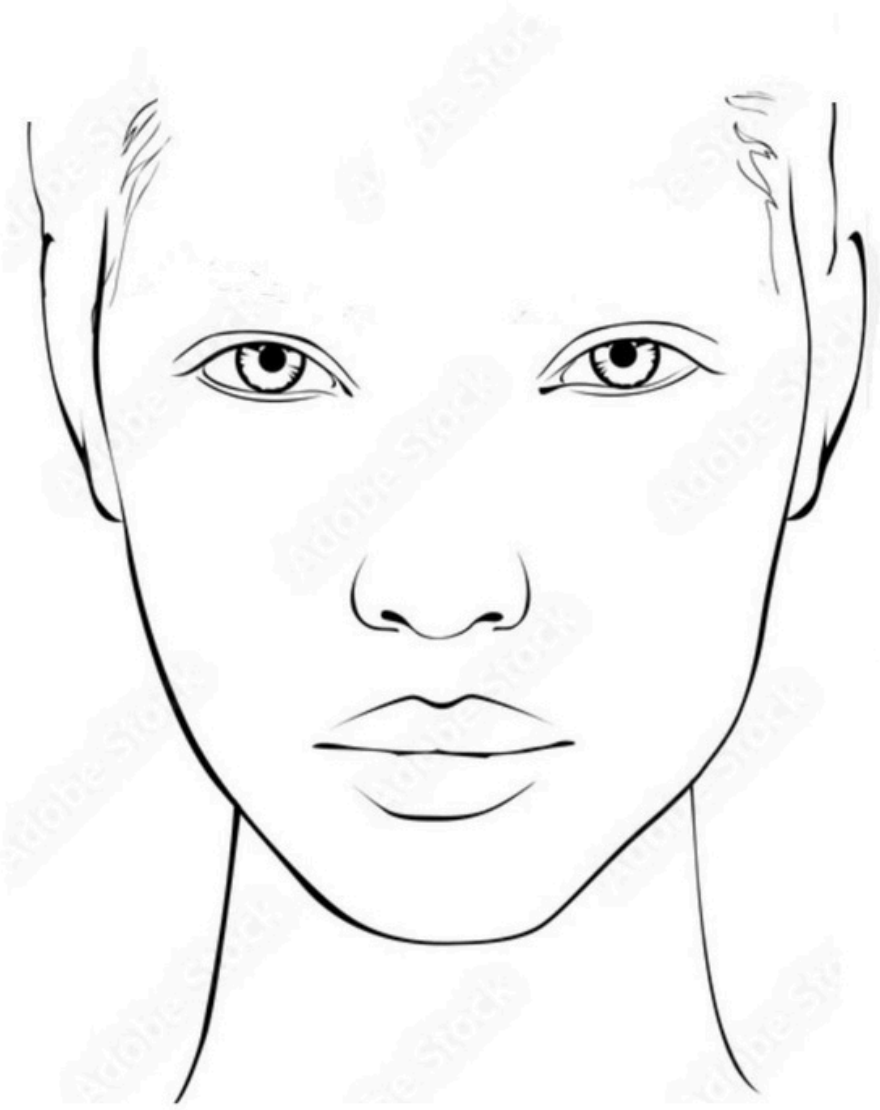
- The makeup template provides space to list the products to be used and a place to list the steps to create the look.
- Some makeup designers prefer to apply makeup to suit them on a model and draw it afterwards.

Play Title:_____

Character Name:_____

Act/Scene: _____

HAIR &
MAKEUP
DESIGN
TE MPL ATE



Application Steps:

Product Legend:

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SET DESIGN

Texas Only Event

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RULES

Students accepting the **Set Design Challenge** must submit the following:

- Design Justification Paper (100-200 word) that explains how the designer addressed the prompt within their designs.
- Inspiration Collage showing any images/words/objects that inspired their design.
- Drawing of the Set or Photo of Set Model for a scene of their choice include the **Title of the Play** and the **Scene Number**.

PLEASE NOTE:

Students should include a human figure in their drawing or model to help indicate scale*.

- In drawings, any type of coloring media is permitted. Favorites include colored pencil, watercolor pencils, watercolor paints, markers and pens alone or in a mixture.
- Students may hand or computer draw their designs.
- Students building models should include a picture of the full front view, but may also include photos showing details up close
- Make sure labeling is very neat and readable

The GOAL of this entry is to convey what the designer feels are the most important elements of the prompt within their design and to illustrate effectively what the setting of the scene should look like so the production crew could make it happen as intended.

Additional Notes:

- Students are not required to draw or create their models to scale but should show their ideas relative to a human figure instead.
- A good relative size of model would be 0'½" = 1'0" size.
- Copy paper boxes or shoe boxes are good size to represent the theater.

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Marketing Design

Texas Only Event

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RULES

Students accepting the **Marketing Design Challenge** must submit the following:

- Design Justification Paper (100-200 word) that explains how the designer addressed the prompt within their designs.
- Inspiration Collage showing any images/words/objects that inspired their design.
- Drawing or Print out of a poster marketing the play which must include **Title of the Play, Playwright, Production Place, Time and Dates, How to get tickets** and list **League Middle School** as the producing organization.
- Drawing or Print out of a 4 page program (cover/2 inside pages/back).

PLEASE NOTE:

- Students may include artwork in the poster as long as it is original or they have obtained permission to use the image.
- In drawings, any type of coloring media is permitted. Favorites include colored pencil, watercolor pencils, watercolor paints, markers and pens alone or in a mixture and even collaging.
- Students may hand or computer draw their designs.
- Make sure all lettering is very neat and readable.

The GOAL of this entry is to convey what the designer feels are the most important elements of the prompt within their design and to illustrate effectively what the poster and program should look like so the production crew could make it happen as intended.

Additional Notes:

- The poster design should be the cover of the program
- Fictional names can be used
- Care should be taken to be sure that students are not using images they do not have the rights to use.
- The program back is an opportunity for the designer to get the audience to come back.

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OPEN MIC SHOWCASE

Texas Only Event

These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and are **not** national qualifying events.

GUIDELINES

Open Mic Showcase is an opportunity for your student(s) to perform for an audience of peers in a low-pressure, "coffee-house" or street festival environment.

- A school may submit one (1) entry in this category.
- Performances will happen during a Workshop Session as a performance opportunity.
- Student(s) will be assigned a 5-minute performance window.
- Performance selections may include (but are not limited to), original or published: poetry, slam poetry, prose, monologue, song, pantomime, TV Commercials, comedy routine, and more. . .
- Props are permitted.
- 1 microphone and 4 chairs will be provided by Texas Thespians for this event
- A sound system will be provided with an auxiliary jack and a dongle for either an iPhone or Android device.
- Certificates for the top 3 performances at the festival will be given out.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Performer(s) MUST prepare a selection before their performance window
- Costumes and set pieces are NOT PERMITTED
- Storage WILL NOT be available before or after the event.
- Students are responsible for any instruments or props used for their performance.
- Selections MUST be school-appropriate and approved by directors and/or coaches in advance
- Music MUST be provided by the performer (*if applicable*)
- Playback device (phone, tablet, etc.) MUST be provided by the performer (*if applicable*)

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IMPROV

Texas Only Event

These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and are **not** national qualifying events.

RULES

- A school may enter one (1) team in this category.
- A group consists of two-six (2-6) students.
- Each team will draw 3 topics. They will choose one to perform. They have 3 minutes of preparation, then perform a 3-5 minute scene.
- Students will...
  - Create a story that must follow the important points of the plot line - it should have a beginning, middle and end.
  - Create believable characters and character relationships.
  - The story must follow the rules of improvisation and the rules of the improv situation they are assigned.

10 Rule of Improvisation

- **Say 'Yes, and..."!** For a story to be built the actors have to agree on a WHO, WHAT, WHERE. Saying "yes, and..." allows you to agree on those.
- **Listen AND add new Info!** After the "and..." add new information. The scene cannot move forward unless new info is added, to push the scene.
- **Don't Block!** Blocking is the opposite of saying "yes, and..." and then adding info. Blocking = Denial = NOT GOOD IN IMPROV! Blocking stops the flow of info and can stop the scene in it's tracks.
- **Avoid Questions!** Questions = blocking in a more subtle form and makes your partner do all the work.
- **Focus On The Here and Now!** A scene is about the characters in the scene. The change, struggle, win or loss that they are dealing with IN THAT MOMENT!
- **Establish the Location!** Good scenes take place somePLACE at someTIME. They do not take place on an empty stage.
- **BE SPECIFIC!** Provide details, which are the lifeblood of moving a scene forward. Each detail provides clues to what is important. Details help provide objectives and flesh out characters.
- **Change Change Change!** The characters in the scenes must experience some type of change for the scene to be interesting. The character needs to go on journeys, be altered by revelations, experience consequences for choices and be moved by emotional moments.
- **Focus on Characters and Relationships!** Focusing on the characters and their relationships is the easiest way to make a scene serious or emotional.
- **Commit and Take Choices!** For humor, focus on actions or objects and TAKE what your partner gives you, then commit to it. Much like how focusing on characters and their relationships is the easiest way to make scenes serious. THIS is the easiest way to make a scene funny.

TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

DUET/GROUP LIP SYNC

Texas Only Event

These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and are **not** national qualifying events.

RULES

- A school may enter unlimited individuals in this category.
- Each team will be adjudicated as a whole, with each group receiving a certain score.
- A group of two to twelve (2-12) people will lip sync to a song from a Published Musical that they have chosen to perform with.
- Students are allowed to use props.
- They MUST provide both their music and music playing device.
- Students can not make any noise themselves.
- Choreography, synchronization, creativity, costumes, and props are key judging criteria.
- Music must be school appropriate and approved by team directors or coaches in advance.
- Performance consists of one song that is 3-7 minutes long.
- A memorized introduction stating the School, Troupe, Musical, and Song Selection is required.

Duet/Group Lip Sync Rubric

Group/Duet Name: _____ **Troupe:** _____

School: _____ **Title of Piece:** _____

	1	2	3	4	5
	Needs Work				*Superior*
MUSICAL SELECTION Was the choice of music ultimately effective? Was there a clear and consistent theme or story?					
PRESENTATION Did the contestants know the words to the song? Did the contestants use wide-open mouth for lip sync? Were props and costumes effectively used to help tell the story?					
DELIVERY Were the contestants enthusiastic? Did they utilize facial expressions to convey character? Did the contestants utilize gestures and movement to convey character? Did the contestants appear poised and confident?					
MOVEMENT, STAGING & CHOREOGRAPHY Is blocking used to convey the story? Was the choreography appropriate for the song choice? Is the movement clear and consistent? Did it enhance the story or distract from the story?					
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS Is the total effect of the performance pleasing? Is the intent/story of the selection clearly communicated? Was the selection original, believable, and effective? Is it clear effort and rehearsal were put into the performance?					

Total Score: _____

Judge's Name: _____ **Judge's Signature:** _____

TEKS **Theatre I.** 1F, I.1G, I.1H, I.3A, I.3C, I.3D, I.4A, I.4B, I.5B, I.5G **Theatre II.** 1F, II.3B, II.3C, II.3D, II.3E, II.4A, II.5B, II.5C, II.5D **Theatre III.** 1F, III.3A, III.3B, III.3D, III.3E, III.4A, III.5B, III.5F, III.5H **Theatre IV.** 1E, IV.1F, IV.3A, IV.3D, IV.3F, IV.4A, IV.5B, IV.5F, IV.5H

TEXAS THESPIANS
JUNIOR FESTIVAL

READER'S THEATRE

Texas Only Event

These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and are **not** national qualifying events.

RULES

- A school may enter one (1) team in this category.
- Each team will be adjudicated as a whole, with each group receiving a certain score.
- A group of two to twelve (2-12) people will perform a selection of the entire published book or script.
- Text must be performed as written by the original author.
- The director may assist in the cutting of the performance piece.
- Students are allowed to use props, costumes, and chairs, but there is no music (either live or recorded) or additional set pieces allowed.
- Interpretation, creativity, ensemble work, characterization, movement and voice are all key components in the judging criteria.
- Students should show the ability to create a story, character, and perform utilizing staging, movement, and ensemble.
- Scripts are allowed to be used during performance if they are in original form or held in folders or binders.
- A memorized introduction stating the School, Troupe, Title of Selection, and Author is required.

2026 THEME

=ADVENTURE=

Now what?

Unsure where to start? Click here for a list of possible material...

START HERE

Readers Theater Rubric

Team Name: _____ **Troupe:** _____

School: _____ **Title of Piece:** _____

	1	2	3	4	5
	Needs Work				*Superior*
INTERPRETATION AND STORYTELLING Was there a clear and consistent theme or story? Was the interpretation of the true to author's intent?					
PRESENTATION Did the contestants hold their scripts in binders or folders? Were props and costumes effectively used to help tell the story?					
CHARACTERIZATION Were the voices audible and easily understood? Were articulation and enunciation clear and distinct? Was each character vocally distinct? Did the performers clearly portray the characters physically and vocally? Did the performers make strong character choices?					
MOVEMENT, STAGING & Blocking Was the blocking appropriate for the story? Is the movement clear and consistent? Did it enhance the story or distract from the story?					
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS Is the total effect of the performance pleasing? Was the selection original, creative, and effective? Is it clear effort and rehearsal were put into the performance?					

Total Score: _____

Judge's Name: _____ **Judge's Signature:** _____

TEKS

Middle School Grades 6-8:
117.34 (c) 6.1 (c) respond to sounds, music, images, and the written word, incorporating movement
117.34 (c) 6.1 (d) express emotions and ideas, using interpretive movements and dialogue
117.34 (c) 6.1 (f) create environments, characters, and actions
117.34 (c) 6.2 (a) demonstrate safe use of the voice and body
117.34 (c) 6.3 (d) interact cooperatively with others in brief dramatizations

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SOLO LIP SYNC

Texas Only Event

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RULES

- A school may enter unlimited individuals in this category.
- An individual will lip sync to a song from a PUBLISHED MUSICAL that they have chosen to perform.
- Performers are allowed to use props.
- Performers must provide their own music and music playing device.
- Performers can not make any noise themselves.
- Choreography, synchronization, creativity, costumes, and props are key judging criteria.
- Music must be school appropriate and approved by team directors or coaches in advance.
- Performances consist of one song that is 3-7 minutes long.
- A memorized introduction stating the School, Troupe, Musical, and Song Selection.

Solo Lip Sync Rubric

Individual Name: _____ **Troupe:** _____

School: _____ **Title of Piece:** _____

	1	2	3	4	5
	Needs Work				*Superior*
MUSICAL SELECTION Was the choice of music ultimately effective? Was there a clear and consistent theme or story?					
PRESENTATION Did the contestant know the words to the song? Did the contestant use wide-open mouth for lip sync? Were props and costumes effectively used to help tell the story?					
DELIVERY Was the contestant enthusiastic? Did they utilize facial expressions to convey character? Did the contestant utilize gestures and movement to convey character? Did the contestant appear poised and confident?					
MOVEMENT, STAGING & CHOREOGRAPHY Is blocking used to convey the story? Was the choreography appropriate for the song choice? Is the movement clear and consistent? Did it enhance the story or distract from the story?					
OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS Is the total effect of the performance pleasing? Is the intent/story of the selection clearly communicated? Was the selection original, believable, and effective? Is it clear effort and rehearsal were put into the performance?					

Total Score: ____

Judge's Name: _____ **Judge's Signature:** _____

TEKS **Theatre I.** 1F, I.1G, I.1H, I.3A, I.3C, I.3D, I.4A, I.4B, I.5B, I.5G **Theatre II.** 1F, II.3B, II.3C, II.3D, II.3E, II.4A, II.5B, II.5C, II.5D **Theatre III.** 1F, III.3A, III.3B, III.3D, III.3E, III.4A, III.5B, III.5F, III.5H **Theatre IV.** 1E, IV.1F, IV.3A, IV.3D, IV.3F, IV.4A, IV.5B, IV.5F, IV.5H