Sound in Film — Dialogue, Music and Effects: Worksheet

Film and Media · Worksheet for https://jugami.com/film/sound-in-film/ · For instant feedback, try the self-guided quiz online.

Grades 6–8 · Film and Media · Unit 2

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Read each problem and write your answer in the space provided. The scenes in this worksheet are made up for practice. They are not the same as the self-guided quiz or the worked examples on the unit page. Use the ideas from the unit: the layers of a soundtrack, diegetic and non-diegetic sound, Foley, music and silence.

The situation (used in problems 1–6): You are planning sound for a short film set at Harborview Middle School. In the opening scene, two friends, Jun and Priya, walk in from the street, buy water at a snack cart in the courtyard, and head toward the gym.

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1. Label each sound with one layer: **D** (dialogue), **E** (sound effect) or **M** (music).

a. Jun says, "Did you bring the tickets?" ____

b. The snack-cart lid slams shut. ____

c. A low, hopeful cue begins that neither friend notices. ____

d. Coins clink on the cart's metal counter. ____

Answer: a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____

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2. A street musician is playing guitar on the sidewalk as Jun and Priya walk past. They glance at the open guitar case and Priya drops in a coin. Is the guitar music **diegetic** or **non-diegetic**? Give one piece of evidence from the scene.

_____

_____

3. Before we see any character, the film's title appears over a still drawing of the school, and an original orchestra theme plays. In the usual case, is that theme **diegetic** or **non-diegetic**? Why?

_____

_____

4. Jun's phone buzzes in a jacket pocket. We hear the ringtone, then Jun pulls the phone out and silences it. Is the ringtone **diegetic** or **non-diegetic**? Why?

_____

_____

5. You need Foley for this courtyard moment (do not reuse the unit page's rainy-hallway backpack scene). Suggest one household object or action you could use to perform each sound.

a. Ice shifting in a plastic water bottle: _____

b. A paper ticket being pulled from a back pocket: _____

c. A metal cart wheel rolling over pavement: _____

6. Under the walk toward the gym, a composer wants the audience to feel that something is slightly off, even though the friends are laughing. Which choice best supports that mood? Circle one, then explain in one sentence.

A. No change: keep only the courtyard noise and the laughter.

B. Add a thin, uneasy held note that the friends do not react to.

C. Add a marching-band anthem playing from speakers the friends dance to.

Explanation: _____

_____

7. During a basketball game in a later scene, a free throw misses and the gym, which had been loud, goes almost quiet for two seconds before someone groans. What is the silence doing here? Write two sentences.

_____

_____

8. A classmate labels this moment: "Priya sits at a practice piano in the music room and plays a simple tune. That music is a non-diegetic score, because all movie music is written for the audience." What is wrong with the label? Write a corrected label and a reason.

Problem: _____

Corrected label: _____

Reason: _____

9. **Room tone.** A sound recordist asks the actors to be still for a minute in the empty gym and records the quiet of the room. In one or two sentences, explain what this recording is for.

_____

_____

10. Read this 20-second plan for a later scene in the school library after hours, then answer the questions.

We see Jun at a table, turning pages. We hear pages, a clock, and a heater ticking, but we never see the clock or the heater. From another aisle, Priya whispers, "I found it," though we do not see her yet. A soft, curious melody begins. Jun does not look up or search for a speaker. Then the melody drops out, and we hear only the clock.

a. Name two **diegetic** sounds, and say whether each is on-screen or off-screen.

_____

b. Name one **non-diegetic** sound and explain how you know.

_____

c. What does the moment of near silence (only the clock) ask the audience to feel or notice?

_____

11. Design a soundtrack for this original moment (not used in the unit or the quiz): *Priya pushes open the door of a dark gym and the automatic lights flicker on, one row at a time.*

a. Dialogue (one short line, or write "none"): _____

b. Two sound effects: _____

c. Music or near silence, with the mood you want: _____

d. Label each of your choices in a–c as diegetic or non-diegetic, with a brief reason.

_____

_____

_____

12. Match each term to the best definition. Write the letter in the blank.

____ Score

____ Foley

____ Source music

____ Atmosphere (room tone)

A. Everyday sound effects performed so they match the picture, often after filming.

B. Original music written to go with the film, which characters usually cannot hear.

C. The background sound of a place even when no one is speaking.

D. Music that comes from something in the scene, such as a radio or an instrument someone is playing.