



# Theatre Virtual Learning

## Introduction to Theatre Design & Production Props

**May 18**



Lesson: May 18

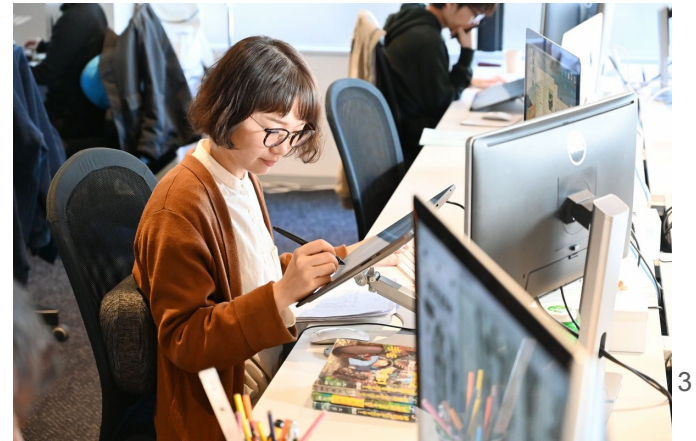
**Objective/Learning Target:**

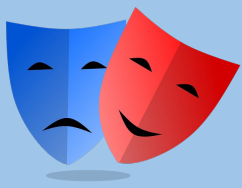
Students will understand the different types of props.

# Prop Design

**Let's Get Started / Warm Up Activities:**

What types of props do you see on stage?





# Lesson: The Process of the Prop Designer

- Read the script for meaning and mood.
- Read the script and make a master list of any prop that might be needed.
- Confer with director/stage manager for
  - Style
  - Time period
  - Additional props they may need
- Research time period.

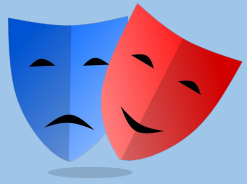




## Lesson: The Process of the Prop Designer

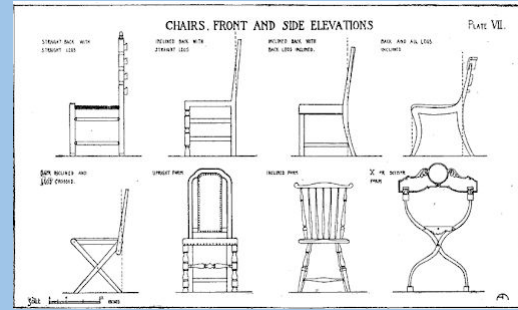
- Following a budget, the designer will determine how to acquire each prop
- The designer will assign responsibilities to crew members based on the list.

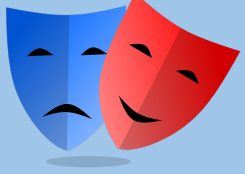




# Methods used to acquire props

- Pull from stock
- Adapt from something else from stock
- Made from materials already in storage
- Made from materials needed to purchase
- Purchase the item
- Rent the item
- Possibly borrow the item (only if the item is replaceable)

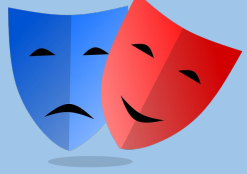




# Crew members will



- Acquire the props according to the list
- Make sure working props are available for rehearsal
- Set props before rehearsals and shows
- Put away props after rehearsals and shows
- Move and set props during rehearsals and shows



## Types of props

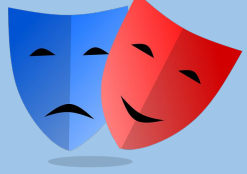
Props are divided into different categories.

Different theatres use different divisions, but these are the major categories:

- Set or stage
- Hand or personal
- Costumes
- Decoration or trim
- Working

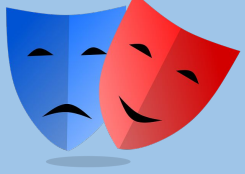






## Types of props

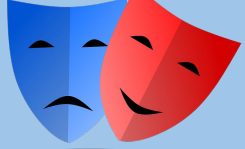
- Set or Stage: pieces of furniture that are needed for the setting.
- Hand or personal: items a character may carry on stage such as a feather duster, tea tray, or broom
- Costume: things a character may wear such as a hat, scarf, or a feather boa.



# Types of props

- Decoration or trim: items that enhance the setting such as pictures, vases, and lamps. (Many times referred to as set dressing.)
- Working: this type of prop never makes it to the show. These are substitutions for the real prop until it can be found. Examples include using a stick off of a tree instead of a cane or a stapler instead of a handgun. These are used so actors get used to grabbing the prop.





## Practice

Read the script “Love Changes. It Grows” on the following slides and make a list of the necessary props. Designate what type of prop each would be.

Remember while you are reading, some scripts may not specifically list a prop, but they are implied. For example, an actor needs a place to sit in a living room. However, the script may not list a couch or chair.

## Love Changes. It Grows.

5 couples spread across the stage. Grade-schoolers stage right, Teens right center, 20-30 year olds center, 40-50 year olds left center and 60-70 year olds stage left. They all sit facing the audience.

60-70 year old man: Love Changes

20-30 man: It grows

Kindergarten boy: I love my bicycle.

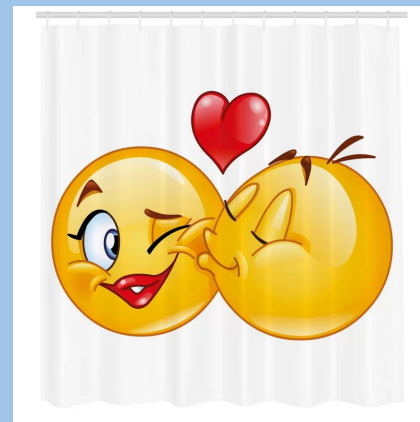
Kindergarten girl: (*Looking at boy*) He's cute.

Teen boy: (*Looking at girl—Whistles at her*) MmmMmm (*teen girl blushes*)

20-30 year old man: I see her across a room of people smiling and it makes me smile. She has such a beautiful smile.

40-50 year old woman: He is such a good father...and the gray in his temples make him look so distinguished.

60-70 year old man: (*Looking at her lovingly, while she is not looking at him*) I love every wrinkle on that face. (*beat*) Pretty sure I put most of them there. (*Smiles*)



Teen boy: Love Changes.

Kindergarten boy: It grows.

Kindergarten girl: (*Holding a doll*) This is Amy. She is our baby.

(*Kindergarten boy crosses his arms and looks confused*)

Teen girl: (*Looking into his eyes*) I hope our children will have your eyes. (*Boy smiles*)

20-30 year old man: Love is her giving birth to our daughter while I sit by her side, holding her hand. (*She smiles and takes his hand*)

40-50 year old man & woman: (*Looking at each other and speaking together*) Love is us working together when our kids are in “those teenage years”.

60-70 year old woman: (*Looking at him while he is reading*) I love watching him read stories to our grandson.



20-30 year old man: Love changes.

40-50 year old woman: It grows.

Teen girl: Love is freaking out when he broke his arm and spending hours with him in the emergency room hoping and praying he will be ok and his pain goes away.

20-30 year old man: Love is holding her hair back while she throws up and not getting sick myself because I'm so worried about her.

40-50 year old man: Love is frantically rushing her to the emergency room when her appendix burst.

60-70 year old man: Love is her sitting by my hospital bedside, praying on her knees for days when I had my heart attack.

Kindergarten boy: (*Looks at the others and shrugs*) I got her a band-aid when she fell and scraped her knee.



40-50 year old man: Love changes.

40-50 year old woman: It grows.

Kindergarten boy: I like impressing her by making farting noises with my armpit! (*Boy tries to make the sound while Girl looks disgusted*)

Teen girl: (*embarrassed look*) I excuse myself from the room so he won't know I have gas.

20-30 year old woman: (*apologetically with a shrug*) I warn him first.

40-50 year old woman: (*nonchalantly*) He'll figure it out.

60-70 year old woman: (*absentmindedly*) Oh, yea. I guess it was me.



60 year old woman: Love is...

Kindergarten girl: Sharing my red crayon even though it was the color I was going to use next. *(Looks at boy and holds crayon out to him. He takes it and colors)*

20--30 year old man: Love is...

Teen boy: Going to every one of my football games to support me even if the weather was freezing and I sat on the bench half of the game.

40-50 year old man: Love is...

20-30 year old woman: Surprising me with a dinner at my favorite restaurant for no reason at all.

Teen boy: Love is...

40-50 year old woman: Taking out the trash before I ask him to do it.

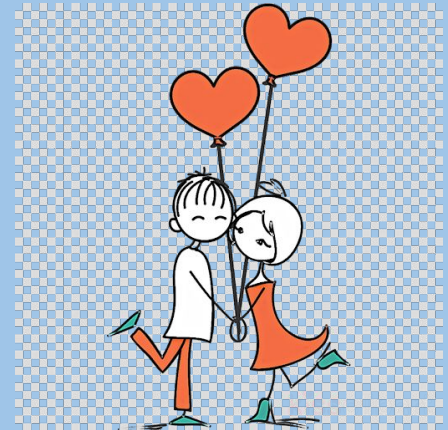
Kindergarten girl: Love is...

60-70 year old woman: Letting me sleep in even when he likes to get up at the crack of dawn.

40-50 year old woman: Love is...

Kindergarten boy: Not throwing the kickball at her so hard, so she can stay in the game.

60-70 year old man: Love is...





Teen girl: Spending time with me instead of hanging out with his buddies.

Kindergarten boy: Love is...

20-30 year old man: Telling me to go out with the guys and watch the game even though she wanted to go to the movies.

Teen girl: Love is...

40-50 year old man: Letting me win an argument even if I am wrong.

20-30 year old woman: Love is...

60-70 year old man: *(Walking to woman and put a blanket on her lap or over her shoulders.)* Helping each other out and doing everything we can so we can stay in our home together as many years as possible.

60-70 year old woman: Love is

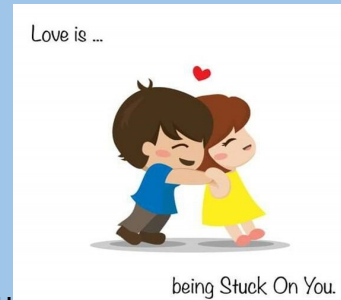
Kindergarten boy: Knowing that she will not tell the teacher on you when you tease her.

Teen boy: Knowing that no matter what, she will be on your side.

20-30 year old man: Knowing she is the first one you want to tell when something exciting happens to you.

40-50 year old man: Knowing you can disagree and even argue about something, but she will never leave you.

60-70 year old man: Knowing she always has been and always will be the one there for you when the going gets tough.



40-50 year old man: Love is...

Kindergarten girl: Knowing that if you forgot your lunch, he will share his peanut butter sandwich with you.

Teen girl: Knowing that every time you call, he will answer.

20-30 year old woman: Knowing that even though he loves his mother, he chose you to love.

40-50 year old woman: Knowing that even though life gets difficult, that he will be there.

60-70 year old woman: Knowing that he is the first one you will see in the morning and the last you will see at night.



Teen girl: Love changes.

20-30 year old woman: It grows.

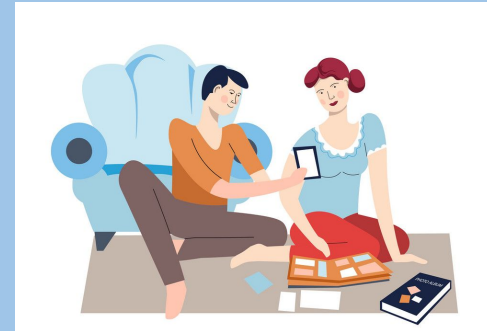
Kindergarten girl: Look at this picture of us together that my mom took when we were in the Christmas program. *(She shows him and he smiles and grabs the picture out of her hands.)*

Teen girl: Look at this scrapbook I made of us. *(She shows him and he smiles and sits beside her to look)*

20-30 year old woman: Look at our wedding album and how great we looked. I wish we had it on video. *(He looks at her and smiles and shakes his head)*

40-50 year old woman: I'm trying to get all of these pictures organized into a photo album. What year was this? *(Shows him one of the photos out of a stack and he shrugs)*

60-70 year old woman: Look at this old photo album of our kids and grandkids. We have so many good memories. *(She takes the album and puts it in his lap. He looks at it and smiles turning the pages.)*



20-30 year old woman: Love changes

Kindergarten girl: It grows

Kindergarten boy: You can't play football with me. You are a girl! (*Shoves her away*)

Teen boy: Thanks for coming to my game. It really means a lot to me. (*Kisses her on the cheek*)

20-30 year old man: I haven't done it in so long and I miss it. Will you throw a football around with me? (*Holding football in hand*)

40-50 year old man: Will you rub my back? It's my old football injury acting up. (*Turns and points out spot*)

60-70 year old man: Will you turn the channel to ESPN? (*Points to TV*)



Kindergarten boy: Love Changes

Teen girl: It grows

Kindergarten boy: (*Hits girl*) You have cooties!

Kindergarten girl: (*Hits boy*) I do not!

Teen boy: (*Hands girl flower & stutters*) Uh... Uh....

Teen girl: (*Takes flower & shyly smiles*) Thank you.

20-30 year old man: (*Hands woman a box of chocolates*) I love you.

20-30 year old woman: (*Takes chocolates*) I love you too.

40-50 year old man: (*Hands woman a bouquet*) I got you flowers. Less calories than chocolate. (*smiles*)

40-50 year old woman: (*Takes flowers and playfully punches his arm*) Thanks, I think. (*laughs*)

60-70 year old man: (*Hands woman a single flower*) I love you, "old lady".

60-70 year old woman: (*Takes flower*) I love you too, "old man". (*They both laugh*)



40-50 year old woman: Love changes

40-50 year old man: It grows.

Kindergarteners: (*Together excitedly, looking up in the sky*) I like fireworks.

Teens: (*Together romantically, looking at each other*) I feel fireworks.

60-70 year olds: (*Together*) Fireworks don't last forever. They aren't meant to.

20-30-year old woman: However, the spark from the initial fireworks creates a real fire.

20-30 year old man: It is a warm comfortable fire.

40-50 year old woman: It is a safe and secure fire.

40-50 year old man: It keeps you going every day.

60-70 year old woman: It gives you a reason to get up every morning.

60-70 year old man: It stays lit at all times, when you work at keeping it burning.



60-70 year old woman: Love is...

Kindergarteners: Scary (*Take hands as they look at audience*)

Teens: Confusing (*Take hands as they look at audience*)

20-30 year olds: Comfortable (*Take hands as they look at audience*)

40-50 year olds: Hard work (*Take hands as they look at audience*)

60-70 year olds: Secure (*Take hands as they look at audience*)

60-70 year old woman: Love is...

All: Worth it. (*All couples look at each other*)

