

## Blocked

### An exercise/assignment to practice blocking, picturization, and stage positions

Using the script included below please create a floorplan/stage diagram for the beginning and/or end of this scene. You can also participate in the additional steps of getting the scene on its feet and acting it out.

Key terms:

**Blocking:** The movement of the play, usually planned and given by the director.

**Strict blocking:** To be executed exactly as the director gives it.

**Organic blocking:** Impulse-based blocking based on the actor's choices.

**Combinations:** Utilizing both strict and organic blocking. Most directing involves combinations of both strict and organic blocking.

**Floorplan:** A bird's eye view of the stage that shows where the actors/characters are located.

**Picturization:** The way the actors and set pieces are configured to help convey meaning.

**Composition:** The way these pictures are arranged on a floor plan.

Ideas for this assignment:

1. For a one period class assignment: Have students create a floor plan for one of the moments in the scene (the beginning moment or end moment for example). This works well on a day you have a substitute teacher in the class or need a workday for yourself. Here is a [link to the floor plan digital assignment](#).
2. For a multiple day unit or assignment: Have students map out the scene with three floor plans (a moment at the start of the scene, middle of the scene, and end of the scene). Students can pick one of their moments and share it with the class using students to show the moment on the stage.
3. For a dynamic multiple day experience: Have students take on roles in the scene and as director and bring the scene to life. As time allows you can rotate the roles so that every student gets to try their hand at directing. You can also break the scene up and give each student one picture to be responsible for.

**Blocked**

By: Christian Kiley

*Lights up on a classroom with four desks. Three of the desks have students in them and one is empty. PREZ, JOKER, and LOGIC, are each sitting in a desk on their cellphones texting, streaming, etc. TEACHER enters with a way-too blinged out basket.*

TEACHER: Welcome to detention. Easy money for me. Punishment for you. Please place your cellphones in the basket and we'll be on our way to a magical time called detention.

JOKER: Is that for trick-or-treating?

TEACHER: I wish. I love some fun-sized Laffy Taffy. But this is no laughing matter. This is serious business.

PREZ: Detention is the least enlightened of punishments.

TEACHER: Yep. Phones. In. The. Basket.

*FRAY enters frantically, bumping into TEACHER and knocking the bedazzled basket to the ground.*

TEACHER: Easy.

*TEACHER picks up the basket.*

FRAY: Sorry I'm late.

JOKER: Are you tardy for a detention you received for being tardy?

FRAY: Yes.

LOGIC: That's consistent at least.

TEACHER: Okay, chatty children, phones in the basket and silence.

JOKER: I don't trust putting my child in that crazy container.

LOGIC: The receptacle does not convey safety and professionalism.

PREZ: A compromise would be that we put our phones in our pockets.

TEACHER: Detention is the opposite of compromise.

FRAY: Why is that?

TEACHER: Give me your phones. I won't put them in the creepy container, I'll just put them in my desk drawer.

*Teacher crosses to each of the students and collects their cellphone until they reach FRAY, who holds their phone behind their back, refusing to surrender it.*

FRAY: No.

TEACHER: Don't make me give you another detention.

FRAY: No.

TEACHER: It's three detentions now. The original detention, another for being tardy, and a third for defiance.

FRAY: Leave me alone.

TEACHER: Just give me your phone.

PREZ: Just let them keep it.

TEACHER: No.

LOGIC: This appears to be a standoff.

TEACHER: You're assuming that we're equals.

JOKER: No, one of you is clearly inferior.

TEACHER: Give me the phone!

FRAY moves away from TEACHER and PREZ, JOKER, and LOGIC create a wall, chain, or barrier separating TEACHER from FRAY.

TEACHER: You're kidding! This is- What is this? Red Rover? This isn't a game. This is discipline. You're making a mockery of the foundation of our school, of education.

FRAY: No.

ALL (except TEACHER): No.

*TEACHER storms out. As the students relax and have a moment of connection.*

*Blackout.*