

“Act it Out” – The Meuse-Argonne Offensive’s pistol duel

## Quote analysis

DIRECTIONS: Use the questions below to analyze the quote from a German soldier.

**“The American is a clever enemy in close combat, in which he uses his pistol with special skill. Our infantry was defeated in close combat in pistol firing...”**

*-From a German army report that was captured by the U.S. First Division. An unknown soldier wrote it on Oct. 14, 1918 at 52nd German Infantry Division Headquarters.*

- 1) What does the German soldier admire about the American soldier?
- 2) Pretend you are a U.S. military leader. How might you use this captured document to their advantage?
- 3) Why do you think American troops were so good in close combat situations?

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# Reading guide – page 1

DIRECTIONS: Access page 4 of Ch. 11 of the iBook. Use the questions below to read through the story of the pistol duel.

## **PAGE 4A**

- 1) How did the Battle for Mayache Ravine showcase the terrain of the Meuse-Argonne Region?
  
- 2) How did German Major Rainer Volbrecht plan to use the French landscape to outflank America’s 91<sup>st</sup> Division?

## **PAGE 4B**

- 1) What was America’s overall objective during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive?
  
- 2) Why was the German 117<sup>th</sup> Division crushed by the initial American assault?
  
- 3) Good leaders inspire. If you were a soldier listening to General Georg von der Marwitz’ s speech, how inspired would you have been?

Rating ( 1-10, 10 = most inspired) \_\_\_\_\_

BE THE SPPECHWRITER. What would you add to the speech to make it more inspiring?



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## **DIRECTIONS – “Act it Out” performance planning**

It’s time to put your own creative twist on this pistol duel.

First, you will be assigned performance groups. In these groups, you will create a skit to perform live or videotape.

Next, once you are settled into your groups, you will assign each group member a specific job.

Here are the possibilities:

- Actor – Sgt. Moore
- Actor - Major Volbrecht
- Scriptwriter(s)
- Prop coordinator
- Movie producer (if you choose a video-taping rather than a live performance)

At the start of next class, you will either act out your skit or play the video of your group’s performance. The rubric on the next page explains how you will be graded. Each group member will receive the same grade.

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## Presentation rubric

Presenters \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Delivery of script</b>	-not clearly articulated, too fast or slow -unprofessional attitude -no eye contact	-somewhat clearly articulated, a bit slow or fast - somewhat professional attitude -eye contact occurred	-clearly articulated, good pace -professional attitude -good eye contact
<b>Substance of script</b>	-little structure -little use of transitions -some flow	-some structure -some use of transitions -some flow	-good structure that is easy to understand -good use of transitions -good flow

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ out of 20

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## **CLIP: What makes a movie script good?**

DIRECTIONS: Fill out this viewing guide as you watch the clip. Be prepared to share your notes and ideas.

	<b><u>NOTES</u></b>
<b>How should you structure a good script?</b>	
<b>How should characters behave in the different acts of the script?</b>	

## Script organizer

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period \_\_\_\_\_

Story/Book Title \_\_\_\_\_ Author \_\_\_\_\_

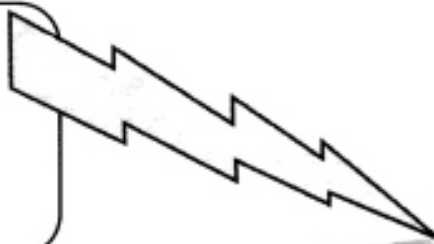
### Story Plot Terms

**Directions:** Fill in the required information for each section below in numerical order. Use the information that appears with each section to help you proceed. It’s okay to write through the gray diagonal line in two of the sections.

3. The **climax** of the story is when the reader is most interested in how the story will end.

The suspense is at its peak, but the outcome is not clear yet.

#### 3. Climax



2. As the story progresses, the **rising action** introduces complications and problems for the main character. These difficulties create suspense.

#### 2. Rising Action

#### 4. Falling Action

4. **Falling Action** appears at the ending of the story. Suspense has been eliminated, and these events show characters’ lives returning to normal.

#### 1. Exposition

#### 5. Resolution

1. The **Exposition** appears at the beginning of the story. The author introduces the setting, characters, and background information.

5. The **Resolution** is the final solution to the problem or conflict. In stories with happy endings it’s called the **denouement**. Tragic endings are termed **catastrophe**.







