



## Discovering Stakes & Urgency

The Mitten Rehearsal #1

**Set the Stage:** [Objectives, Tactics and Obstacles](#) video: 4 minutes, 3 seconds.

**Activity:** What's my objective?

Procedure:

- Independently, select one scene from the play, read it out loud and create a list of the things your character might want in that scene.
- Discuss these **objectives** with your castmates and, working together with ideas from peers, decide on one for your character in the scene.
- Create a list of the **obstacles**, or the things that were standing between your character and their objective in the scene.
- Reading the scene again with your objective in mind, write down the actions your character takes toward their objective, or their **tactics**.
- After discovering their character's objectives, the obstacles their character faces, and the tactics they use to overcome these obstacles, students should share their findings with their castmates. As each student justifies their insights ("my character behaves this way, for these reasons"), the cast gains a better collective understanding of the dynamics at play between their characters.

**Further Viewing:** [Overcoming Obstacles TED Talk](#) video: 4 minutes, 22 seconds.

**Set the Stage:** [Urgency and Stakes | The Mitten](#) video: 7 minutes, 49 seconds.

**Activity:** What's at stake?

Procedure:

- Now that you've taken note of your objectives and obstacles, consider where the urgency comes from for your character.
- What are your character's stakes? You know what they want (their objective) and what is standing in the way (their obstacles). Given these objectives and obstacles, what is at risk for them? By determining where the urgency is coming from you will gain a better understanding of your character's objectives. In this urgent situation, what objectives

stand out as the most important? How will this change the way your character acts? Reflect on these questions and take note of your discoveries.

- Once you've determined your character's stakes, discuss them with your castmates. Each character's situation will have similarities and differences; what is unique about your character's urgency? What do you have in common?

### **What's a Super Objective?**

A *Super Objective* is what a character wants throughout the entire play, once each student has their objectives in mind, they should decide their Super Objective before the next rehearsal.

### **Materials**

- *The Mitten* Script
- Pencil
- Paper