Background and Status Quo Worksheet

Determining your character's background and **status quo** (present circumstances) will affect how you develop your character onstage. Some information is provided in your script. Some information must be contributed by you.

To help determine your character's background and status quo, ask yourself questions such as those posed here. Take notes on your answers in the space below. Then write about your character's background and status quo on a separate sheet of paper or in your Theatre Notebook. Because a character's status quo often changes from scene to scene, write a separate paragraph on your character's status quo for each scene in which your character appears.

Background

- What kind of family did I come from?
- How did I interact with my family while I was growing up?
- Was it a well-adjusted home life or were there many conflicts?
- Of what social status and how much wealth did my family have?
- How have health issues influenced my life?
- How intelligent am I, and how much education do I have?
- What do I do for a living?
- How old am I?
- What are my religious or spiritual beliefs?
- What kind of clothes do I prefer?
- Am I an emotionally expressive person? In what ways do I express my emotions?
- How would I describe myself—temperamental? moody? explosive? calm? passive? quiet?
- What is my sense of humor like?
- What is my best trait? my worst trait?
- What is my relationship to other characters in the play? How do I treat them?

Status Quo

- Where am I today?
- What am I doing?
- Who is with me?
- What do I want to do?
- Who or what is preventing me from doing it?
- What am I going to do about it? How?
- What do I stand to gain or lose?

Copyright © Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.