

Lesson 2***Student Handout 2.9—Play Template: The Battle of Salamis*****(A Play in groups of 8)**

On this Student Handout, create a short skit. Students will perform it in front of the class in connection with Lesson 3. The play is about the Battle of Salamis, and it would be useful to first write down the sequence of events before beginning to write the play. Begin when Xerxes asks his commanders for advice about fighting the Greeks. Your dramatic presentation must include the following characters and props. You may also add extra speaking parts.

Cast of Characters	Props
1 Messenger	A map of the Bay of Salamis
Xerxes	A diagram of the Greek battle strategy
Artemisia	6 ships and a chair (throne)
3 Greek commanders	
Mardonius	
1 Persian commander	

Xerxes:

Commanders: We all agree (All the commanders say this except Artemisia.)

Artemisia:

Xerxes:

(A messenger runs in, after all the commanders exit).

Messenger:

Xerxes:

(The messenger exits, and Xerxes sits on his throne at the edge of the stage. Six ships enter: three are Greek and three are under Persian commanders. A battle begins, and the Persians become trapped. Commanders call out orders to their crews.)

Artemisia:

(Artemisia rams a Persian ship, not the one commanded by Mardonius, and flees while it sinks.)

Greek commander #1:

(The rest of the Greek ships chase the other Persian vessels but not Artemisia's. All the ships exit and the commanders reunite with Xerxes.)

Xerxes:

Mardonius:

Xerxes:

Artemisia:

Xerxes:

Lesson 2***Student Handout 2.7—Play Template: The Battle at Thermopylae*****(A Play in groups of 10)**

On this Student Handout, create a short skit. Students will perform it in front of the class in connection with Lesson 3. The play is about the Battle of Thermopylae, and it would be useful to first write down the sequence of events before beginning to write the play. Begin when Leonidas and his 300 have just received news that one million Persians are marching towards them at Thermopylae. Your dramatic presentation must include the following characters and props.

Cast of Characters	Props
1 Greek messenger	A map of the pass at Thermopylae
Xerxes	A diagram of the Greek battle strategy
Leonidas	Fake shields and spears
2 Spartan soldiers	
1 Greek spy	
1 Persian horseman	
1 Persian messenger	
2 Persian soldiers	

(Leonidas and his 300 are at the Pass at Thermopylae.)

Greek Messenger:

Leonidas:

(The Spartans beautify themselves and train for battle. They do not see a horseman watching them. After some time, they all exit the stage and Xerxes enters followed by the horseman.)

Horseman:

Xerxes:

(Xerxes exits and Persian soldiers enter, attacking the Spartans. Fighting continues as they go off stage. Xerxes enters and waits until a Persian messenger comes crawling in, asking for reinforcements.)

Persian Messenger:

Xerxes:

(Xerxes exits and Spartans enter holding off an attack from the Immortals. They are all killed and the Spartans exit rejoicing.)

(The stage is empty and Xerxes enters followed by the Greek spy.)

Xerxes:

Greek Spy:

Xerxes:

(The Persian army follows the secret path.)

Leonidas:

(The Spartans stay with Leonidas and they wait for the Persian army.)

(A battle occurs and all the Spartans are killed.)

(Xerxes enters with his Persians.)

Xerxes:

Persian:

Xerxes:

Lesson 2***Student Handout 2.8—Play Template: The Burning of Athens*****(A Play in groups of 9)**

On this Student Handout, create a short skit. Students will perform it in front of the class in connection with Lesson 3. The play is about the burning of Athens, and it would be useful to first write down the sequence of events before beginning to write the play. Begin when Xerxes is instructing his army to march north to Athens and to burn all the cities along the way. Your dramatic presentation must include the following characters and props.

Cast of Characters	Props
2 Athenians	A map of area between Thermopylae and Athens
Xerxes	A diagram of Athens
2 Persian soldiers	Fake shields and spears
2 Delphians	
1 Pythia	
Themistocles	

Xerxes:

(The Persian soldiers cheer and all of them move off stage. Enter the Delphians, who are worried because they have just received the message that Xerxes is coming.)

Delphian #1:

Delphian #2:

Delphian #1:

(They decide to consult the oracle. They exit, and the Pythia enters. The Delphians return with the Athenians.)

Delphian #2:

Pythia:

Delphian #1:

Athenian #1:

Pythia:

(They all exit after each one was told by the oracle, through the Pythia, what to do. Persian soldiers enter and get ready to attack. There is a bolt of lighting.)

Persian Soldier #1:

(A panic begins, and the Delphians attack, driving the Persians off stage. Enter the Athenians, arguing about what they should do.)

Athenian #1:

Themistocles:

Athenian #2:

Themistocles:

(Themistocles and Athenian #1 leave for the ship, while Athenian #2 goes to the citadel. The Persians arrive.)

Xerxes:

Persian soldier #2:

(The Persians continue to shoot arrows and then attack the citadel. They run Athenian #2 off stage, and the audience hears deadly sounds.)

Xerxes: