

Reading-Writing Connection

Broaden your understanding of “The School Play” by responding to these prompts. Then complete the **Grammar and Writing** exercise.

WRITING PROMPTS	SELF-CHECK
<p>A. Short Response: Write a Review Drama critics write reviews of plays to give their opinion of a performance. In one paragraph, write a review of Robert’s play for his school newspaper. Use your imagination to fill in the details.</p>	<p>A convincing review will . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• identify the play’s strengths and weaknesses• use evidence from the story to support your opinion
<p>B. Long Response: Analyze the Ending The way characters deal with conflict affects how the story ends. Write two or three paragraphs explaining how the resolution of the story would be different if Robert had not overcome his fear of being on stage.</p>	<p>An interesting analysis will . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provide a different but believable climax• explain the effect of the change on the falling action and resolution

GRAMMAR AND WRITING

AVOID SENTENCE FRAGMENTS A **sentence fragment** is exactly what it says it is—a piece of a sentence. A fragment lacks a **subject** (whom or what the sentence is about), a **predicate** (what the subject is or does), or both. Don’t let the punctuation at the end of a fragment fool you. What might look like a sentence is still a fragment if a complete thought is not expressed. A fragment usually can be combined with the sentence before it to make a complete sentence.

Original: Robert was cast in a play. About the Donner Party.

Revised: Robert was cast in a play about the Donner Party.

PRACTICE Rewrite this paragraph, correcting the four sentence fragments.

The story would end very differently. If Robert had forgotten his line completely. He might run off the stage. Leaving Belinda to go on without him. Belinda would be angry. At Robert. However, Mrs. Bunnin would have another chance next year. To direct a perfect school play.

For more help with fragments, see page R64 in the Grammar Handbook.