

# TEACHER NOTES - REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE 4

## EXPLORE STAGE SPACE & STAGE POSITIONING

The relationship between Doc and Marty is totally unique and there is so much chemistry between the two actors playing Doc and Marty. John Rando, the Director, would certainly have worked with the actors to develop this on stage chemistry and how they stage each scene. When looking at staging we must not only explore how the characters move in relation to the space, set and props around them but also how they move in relation to each other and how this conveys relationship, status and individual objectives.

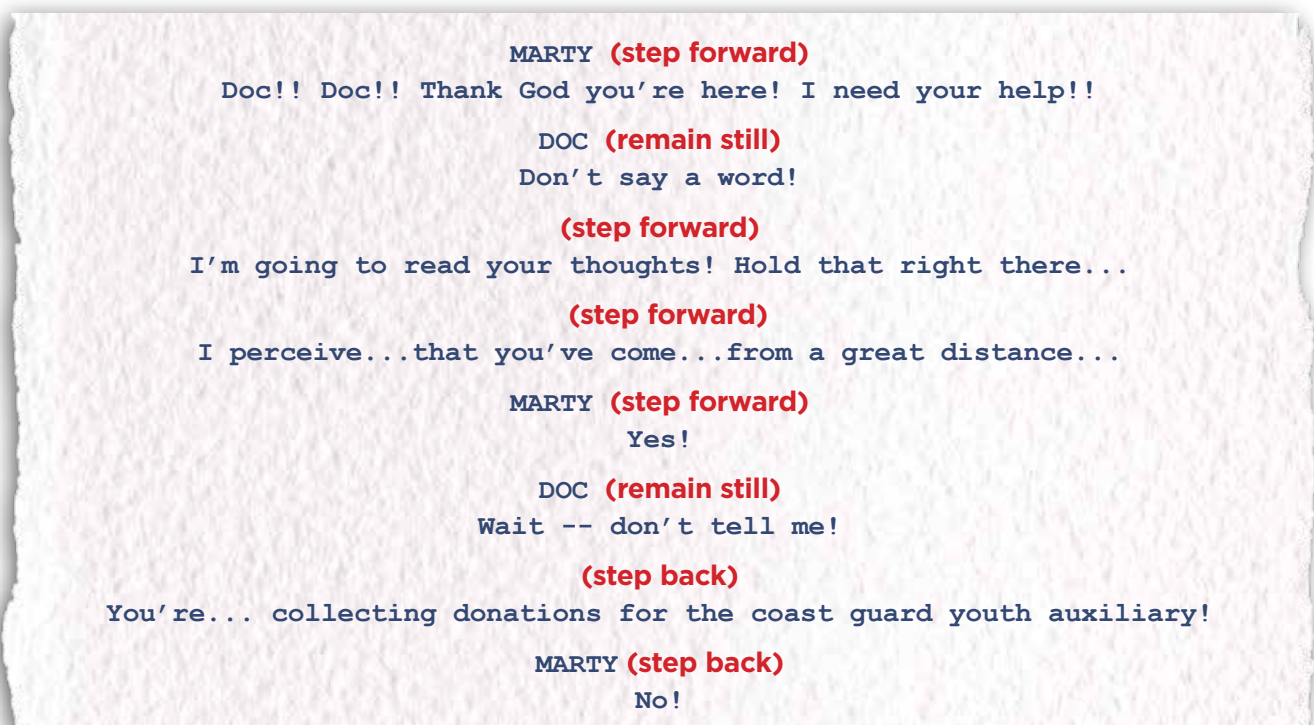
### TASK 1

Ask the students to get into pairs, with one person playing Doc Brown and the other playing Marty McFly. The students are going to perform the following extract but tell them they are only allowed to make three movement choices throughout:

- A step towards the person they are talking to
- A step away from the person they are talking to, or
- A definite choice to remain where they are.

Students can only make their move when they are speaking, taking it in turns like pieces on a chess board. (Top Tip – have the students begin the exercise standing four paces apart from each other if the space allows to prevent any collisions mid scene.)

**Important** – tell the students to let their character’s lines influence their choice of movement. So, taking the chosen extract the movement could look something like this –



Although the movements back, forth and still should be definite and over-emphasised (this should not look naturalistic) the students may find that their chosen movements convey the relationship between Doc and Marty well and when scaled down could form effective blocking for the scene. This exercise is great at helping students understand how space and proxemics can be used to define relationships and status, and it also helps students move with purpose on stage, avoiding the trap of meaningless wandering or wooden stillness.