

## EXPLORE 2. Art is money

TB → p. 25

WAY 1

DIFFÉRENCIATION

1. a. Look at the text and identify its specificities:

Young playwright Barton Fink discusses with his agent, Garland Stanford.

GARLAND

We have to talk a little business. I've just been on the phone to Los Angeles. Barton, Capitol Pictures wants to put you under contract. They've offered you a thousand dollars a week. I think I can get them to go as high as two.

BARTON

To do what?

GARLAND

What do you do for a living?

BARTON

I'm not sure anymore. I guess I try to make a difference.

GARLAND

Fair enough. No pressure here, Barton, because I respect you, but let me point out a couple of things. One, here you make a difference to five hundred fifty people a night-if the show sells out. Eighty-five million people go to the pictures every week.

BARTON

To see pap<sup>1</sup>.

GARLAND

Yes, generally, to see pap. However,

point number two: A brief tenure<sup>2</sup> in Hollywood could support you through the writing of any number of plays.

BARTON

I don't know, Garland; my place is here right now. I feel I'm on the brink of success—

GARLAND

I'd say you're already enjoying some. Barton leans earnestly forward.

BARTON

No, Garland, don't you see? Not the kind of success where the critics fawn over<sup>3</sup> you or the producers like Derek make a lot of money. No, a real success—the success we've been dreaming about—the creation of a new, living theater of, about, and for the common man! If I ran off to Hollywood now I'd be making money, going to parties, meeting the big shots, sure, but I'd be cutting myself off from the wellspring of that success, from the common man.

He leans back and chuckles ruefully.

BARTON

I guess I'm spouting off<sup>4</sup> again. But I am certain of this, Garland: I'm capable of more good work. Maybe better work than I did in *Choirs*. It just doesn't seem to me that Los Angeles is the place to lead the life of mind.

Joel and Ethan COEN,  
Barton Fink, 1991

1. bêtises 2. job 3. flatter 4. speak without thinking

b. Guess what type of document it is and tick the correct answer.

This text is: ☐ an interview ☐ a movie script ☐ a diary entry

2. Read the culture spot and the introduction. Take notes on each character:

Character 1: Name: .....

Job: .....

Character 2: Name: .....

Job: .....

3. Fill in the table with information about Barton Fink.

|                   | Current job | Job offer |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Task              | .....       | .....     |
| Location          | .....       | .....     |
| Industry          | .....       | .....     |
| Possible audience | .....       | .....     |
| Salary            | .....       | .....     |

4. Read the text again and **rephrase** Garland's arguments, using the prompts.

– “They’ve offered you a thousand dollars a week.” (1.5-6) → *With his new job, Barton will* .....

– “Eighty-five million people go to the pictures every week.” (1.22-23) → *His new job will be an opportunity for Barton to* .....

5. Pick out the adjectives that best describe Barton. **Justify** with a quote for each of them.

☐ greedy    ☐ torn    ☐ enthusiastic    ☐ hesitant    ☐ optimistic

6. Sum up the main ideas of the document. **Use** the following words/expressions.

*playwright • earn money • creativity • lucrative • torn between*

## WAY 2

1. Look at the text layout and spot its specificities. **Deduce** the nature of the document.

2. Read the culture spot and the introduction. **Take notes** on each character:

Character 1: .....

Character 2: .....

3. Read the text and **take** notes on Barton's situation. **Spot** the proper nouns to better understand it.

| Current job | Job offer |
|-------------|-----------|
| .....       | .....     |
| .....       | .....     |
| .....       | .....     |

4. Focus on Garland's speech: **rephrase** his arguments to convince Barton. **Spot** the numbers to better understand them.

**5. a. Focus** on l. 40-45 and **explain** what Barton means:

“If I ran off to Hollywood now I’d be making money, going to parties, meeting the big shots, sure, **but** I’d be cutting myself off from the wellspring of that success, from the common man.”

**b. Complete** the following sentence: → Barton feels .....  
because .....

**6. Sum up** what you understood focusing on the tension between art and money.