

**1. Define the following terms:**

**Melody**

**Accompaniment**

**Underscore**

**2. What is the role of music in musical theatre?**

**The factor that unifies all types of song in musicals is that each is a heightened expression of a character's experience.**

**Songs depend on the story and characters that surround them for specific meaning.**

**As we listen to the music a character sings with and speaks over, we're given a lot of info about that character, her mood, and the emotional changes she goes through. It is specific to the character and provides character building information.**

## **The music never lies**

**The music is telling the truth about the character's feelings. In musicals, we have the added textual layer of music to tell us what is going on under the surface of a scene. Subtext is often delivered through music.**

**The characters may sing one things while the music tells us something different. The music can also agree with what the characters are saying and support it with new, different or varied information.**

**Melody - the tune upon which the lyrics are sung**

**Accompaniment - what the piano or orchestra plays while you sing**

**Underscoring - music that has been composed or arranged to be played during the dialogue portions of a musical scene**

**It's important to understand the musical language and its components.**

**Tempo - how fast a piece is sung**

**Rhythm - short and long notes**

**Key - pitches in a song**

**Time Signature - set of beats in groupings**

**Bar/Meaure - a unit of music containing the number of pulses**

**Composer's markings give specific notations about tempo, vocal qualities and dynamics. You should try to interpret the song the way the composer intends. Should you choose to interpret it differently, it should be for good reason.**



**Look through your music and write down any composer markings you see.**