Aspects of Stage Light and Their Effects

ASPECT	EFFECT
Direction	Produces highlights and shadows, creates or eliminates distortion, varies importance of objects or actors
Front	Gives general illumination, puts emphasis on areas or specific actors
Side	Defines figures and scenery, mood, atmosphere, and time
Back	Separates figures from scenery, sets mood, creates environment
Down	Reduces shadows on scenery, creates distorted effects on figures
Up	Creates dramatic effects on scenery and figures, is used for lighting drops and cycloramas
Angle of Incidence	
Low angle	Produces low angle reflection, long shadows
Sharp angle	Produces sharp angle reflection, less visible shadows
Level of Illumination	
Higher (brighter)	Reflects more light from the surface, offers higher temperature of radiant energy, directs audience's attention
Lower (dimmer)	Gives less light and less heat, creates atmosphere, draws less attention
Quality of Light	
Sharp	Emphasizes surface quality, accents differences in textures, stresses 3-D quality, heightens drama, creates brighter highlights; produces sharper, harder, darker shadows
Diffused	Reduces contrast, softens contours, creates

Material Responses to Light

HIGH REFLECTION	MEDIUM REFLECTION	HIGH ABSORPTION	TRANSMISSION
Mirror	Raw silk	Velveteen	Organza
Sequins	Brocade	Velvet	Chiffon
Lame´	Taffeta	Wool	Organdy
Vinyl	Crepe	Cotton	Scrim
Satin	Chintz	Velour	Net
Mylar		Knits	Tulle
Polyester			Lace
Lurex			
Glitter cloth			

Probable Effects of Colored Light on Fabric

COLORS OF LIGHT

FABRIC COLORS	Amber (Yellow)	Orange	Red	Violet	Blue	Blue-green (Cyan)	Green
Yellow	Bright yellow	Yellow-orange	Red	Scarlet	Yellow-green	Yellow-green	Yellow-green
Orange	Orange	Bright orange	Bright red-orange	Scarlet	Light brown	Light brown	Light brown
Red	Bright red	Red-orange	Bright red	Scarlet	Purple-black	Dark maroon	Maroon
Violet	Dark brown	Dark brown	Dark gray	Deep violet	Dark violet	Dark violet	Violet
Blue	Dark blue-gray	Black	Gray	Light blue	Dark blue	Light blue-gray	Light blue
Blue-green	Green-blue	Dark green-blue	Black	Dark blue	Very dark blue	Dark blue-gray	Dark green
Green	Bright green	Dark green	Dark gray	Bluish brown	Light olive-green	Light green-gray	Strong green