

Scriptwriting with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To identify and use the key features of a playscript, including characters, stage directions, and dialogue.

Leo the Lion is writing a play about a grand jungle adventure! However, he has mixed up his script features. Read the jumbled lines below and match them to the correct playscript label. Then, use the word bank to fill in the missing gaps in Leo's unfinished scene.

Word bank: stage directions · character name · dialogue · scene setting

1. Match the feature to its purpose: A) [The stage directions], B) Leo: (The character name), C) 'Hello friends!' (The dialogue). Write your matches clearly. (3 marks)

2. Leo needs to write a line for Pip the caterpillar. Write a line of dialogue for Pip that shows he is excited about a new book, remembering to use a colon after his name. (2 marks)

3. Why do playwrights include stage directions in brackets? Explain why they are important for the actors. (2 marks)

4. Fill in the blank: The _____ tells the actors how to move or how their voice should sound. (1 mark)

5. If Leo is writing a play set in a library, where should he describe the setting (e.g., 'The library is filled with tall shelves of dusty books')? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a stage layout for Leo the Lion's play. Include a backdrop of a jungle, a prop for Pip the caterpillar to sit on, and a spotlight shining on where the actors should stand.



Extension challenge: Write a short script (no more than 10 lines) featuring Leo and Pip discussing a mysterious map they found. Remember to include at least two stage directions in brackets!