

Class 4 English Assessment: The Art of the Playscript

Learning objective: To identify, understand, and use the structural features of a playscript.

Read the scene below carefully and answer the questions that follow. Write in full sentences where requested.

SCENE 1: The Great Oak Tree

[The stage is decorated with autumn leaves. Nova the owl is perched on a branch, looking through a telescope. Max the monkey enters, holding a bag of acorns.]

NOVA: (Excitedly) Max, look! The constellation of the Great Acorn is visible tonight!

MAX: (Checking his calculator) That is interesting, Nova, but I have a maths puzzle. If I have 15 acorns and I share them between 3 squirrels, how many does each get?

NOVA: Oh, Max! Always thinking about numbers.

[Max starts to arrange the acorns in a perfect pattern on the ground.]

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

1. Identify the two features used to show who is speaking in the playscript above. (2 marks)

2. What is the purpose of the text found inside the square brackets []? Give one example from the passage. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the author chose to use a colon (:) after the character names instead of a comma or a full stop? (2 marks)

4. Find and copy one example of an adverb used within the brackets to describe how a character speaks. (1 mark)

5. Explain why playscripts are written differently to novels or storybooks. Think about how the text is used by actors. (4 marks)

6. If Max were to find more acorns, write the next three lines of dialogue. Ensure you include one stage direction in brackets. (5 marks)

7. Rewrite this sentence as a line of dialogue for a playscript: 'Pip the caterpillar said happily that he had found a new word.' (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a stage layout for 'SCENE 1: The Great Oak Tree'. Label where Nova and Max are standing and where the autumn leaves are placed.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are directing this play. Write a short paragraph explaining what props you would need and why they are important for the audience to understand the story. Total: /25