

A Day at the Library Theatre

Learning objective: To understand the features of a playscript, including stage directions and dialogue.

Read the playscript below carefully and answer the questions that follow. Remember to use evidence from the text to support your answers.

Setting: The BookFlik Forest Library. Shelves are filled with colourful books. Pip the caterpillar is perched on a large dictionary. Max the monkey is pacing near a pile of maths books.

PIP: (Excitedly) Max, I have found the perfect word! It is 'extraordinary'.

MAX: (He stops and scratches his head) That is a long word, Pip. How many letters does it have? Let us count them together!

PIP: (Laughing) You always turn everything into a puzzle, Max. It has thirteen letters.

MAX: (Beaming) Thirteen! A prime number. That is a brilliant discovery. We should write it on the library noticeboard so everyone can learn it.

PIP: That is a wonderful idea. I will get my fountain pen and some ink.

[Pip crawls towards the desk. Max jumps up and down, pointing at the shelf.]

MAX: We can find a book about dictionaries to see if there are any other long words hidden inside!

PIP: (Smiling) Lead the way, Max. Our investigation begins now.

Word bank: stage directions · dialogue · character · performance · script

1. Where is this scene set, and which two characters are taking part in the conversation? (2 marks)

2. Find and write down the stage direction that tells us what Max is doing when he is thinking about the word 'extraordinary'. (2 marks)

3. Why does Max think the number thirteen is 'brilliant'? (2 marks)

4. How do you think Pip feels about Max's obsession with maths? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

5. Do you think a playscript is an easy way to read a story? Explain why or why not. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar and Max the monkey inside the forest library, showing the pile of books mentioned in the script.



Extension challenge: Write your own short playscript featuring two of the BookFlik characters working together to solve a problem. Remember to include at least three stage directions in brackets!