

Mastering Playscripts: Year 4 English

Learning objective: To identify and understand the key features and structure of a playscript.

Read the front of each card to test your knowledge of playscript writing. Flip the card to check if you have identified the feature correctly.

What is a playscript?

A piece of writing that tells a story through dialogue and actions, intended to be performed by actors on stage.

What are stage directions?

Instructions written in brackets or italics that tell the actors how to move or how to say their lines.

Where do you write the character's name in a playscript?

On the left-hand side of the page, usually followed by a colon, to show who is speaking.

What is dialogue?

The words spoken aloud by the characters in the play.

What is a 'scene' in a play?

A part of the play that happens in one specific time and place.

Why do we include a list of characters at the beginning of a script?

To help the reader and the director know who is in the play and how many actors are needed.

How do stage directions help an actor?

They explain the character's feelings, tone of voice, or physical actions, such as 'whispering nervously' or 'walking across the room'.

What is a 'prop' in a play?

An object used by the actors during the performance, such as a lantern, a letter, or a walking stick.

What is the 'setting' in a playscript?

A description of where and when the story takes place, usually found at the start of a scene.

Why are playscripts written differently to storybooks?

Playscripts are designed to be performed by actors, so they focus on speech and movement rather than long descriptions of thoughts or feelings.

If a playscript says: (Pip the caterpillar smiles and waves), what is this called?

A stage direction.

What is the purpose of a colon (:) after a character's name?

It separates the name of the person speaking from the words they are saying.