

Mastering the Stage: Playscript Skills

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

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of how playscripts are written to help Max the monkey and Pip the caterpillar prepare for their school performance.

Max and Pip are writing a play about a secret garden. They need to make sure their script is clear for the actors to read.

Word bank: stage directions · dialogue · character name · setting · brackets · performance

1. When writing a playscript, where should you place the character's name when they are about to speak? (1 mark)

2. What are stage directions? Explain their purpose and give an example of how they might be written using brackets. (3 marks)

3. Rewrite the following piece of story writing as a short section of a playscript: 'Pip looked at the giant sunflower and whispered, "Wow, that is tall!" Max jumped up and down excitedly.' (3 marks)

4. Why do you think playscripts do not use speech marks (inverted commas) for the dialogue? (2 marks)

5. Imagine a scene where Pip is searching for a book. Write one line of dialogue and one stage direction to describe his actions. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a stage set for Max and Pip's play. Label the different parts of the stage using the terms you have learned today.



Extension challenge: Choose a short scene from a favourite book or a story you have written. Convert one page of that story into a formal playscript, ensuring you include a 'Setting' description at the top and clear stage directions for the characters.