

# Mastering Playscripts: Grade 3 ELA

*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.