

Mastering the Playscript: Year 5 English

Learning objective: To understand the structural features and conventions of a playscript.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of playscript features. Read the front of the card, then check the back to see if you have identified the correct term or definition.

What are stage directions?

Instructions written by the playwright to tell the actors how to move, speak, or behave on stage, usually found in brackets or italics.

Where are character names placed in a playscript?

On the left-hand side of the page, usually in bold or capital letters, to show who is speaking.

What is the purpose of a 'Scene Heading'?

To inform the reader where and when the scene is taking place (e.g., SCENE 1: A misty forest at dawn).

What is dialogue in a playscript?

The words spoken aloud by the characters during the performance.

Why are parentheses used in playscripts?

To enclose stage directions so the reader can distinguish between the spoken dialogue and the physical actions.

What is a 'Cast List'?

A list at the beginning of a play that names all the characters who will appear in the production.

What is an 'Act' in a play?

A major section of a play, similar to a chapter in a book, often containing several scenes.

True or False: Playscripts use quotation marks for speech.

False. Playscripts use the character's name followed by a colon instead of speech marks.

What does 'Setting' refer to in a playscript?

The time and place where the story happens, often described at the start of each scene.

Who is the 'Playwright'?

The person who writes the playscript.