

Scriptwriting with Max the Monkey: Solving the Scene

Learning objective: To use the features of a playscript, including stage directions, character names, and dialogue, to write an original scene.

Max the Monkey is planning a theatrical performance! Use the structure below to write your own short play. Remember to use capital letters for character names, colons to separate names from speech, and brackets for your stage directions.

Setting the Scene: The dusty, old library at the edge of the forest, where Pip the caterpillar is searching for the perfect dictionary.

Word bank: suddenly · whispering quietly · with a dramatic flourish · meanwhile · stumbling over · afterwards · pacing nervously · shouting triumphantly

1. Character Introduction: Introduce two characters (e.g., Pip and Nova) and describe how they enter the scene. Who is on stage first? What are they doing? (2 marks)

2. The Conflict: Write a short dialogue where the characters discover a problem. Remember to use brackets for stage directions (e.g., [Pip looks worried]). (3 marks)

3. The Turning Point: How do the characters react to the problem? Write a line of dialogue that shows a change in their mood. (2 marks)

4. The Solution: Max the Monkey loves a puzzle! How do your characters work together to fix the situation using a clever idea? (3 marks)

5. The Final Act: Write the final lines of your script, including a stage direction that tells the actors how to leave the stage (e.g., [They exit together, laughing]). (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Challenge: Add a 'Prop List' at the beginning of your script. List three items the characters might need to solve their puzzle and give each item a cost in £ (e.g., A magnifying glass: £4.50).