

Class 5 English Assessment: The Art of the Playscript

Learning objective: To identify, understand, and apply the structural features of a playscript.

Read the provided scene carefully and answer all questions. Ensure you use technical terminology where appropriate. Write clearly and check your spellings.

[SCENE START]

SCENE 1: THE ANCIENT LIBRARY

(The stage is filled with towering bookshelves. PIP the caterpillar is wearing a tiny pair of glasses, scanning a dusty ledger. MAX the monkey enters, swinging from a bookshelf.)

MAX: (Breathlessly) Pip! I've finally calculated it! If we read ten pages every hour, we can finish this book by sunset!

PIP: (Without looking up) That is a fascinating statistic, Max, but I am currently searching for the rarest word in the library.

MAX: (Pacing back and forth) Is it a maths book? Does it have numbers?

PIP: (Sighing) No, Max. It is a dictionary of lost languages.

[SCENE END]

Word bank: stage directions · character name · dialogue · scene heading · parentheses · setting · performance

1. Identify two structural features used in the passage that show it is a playscript rather than a storybook. (2 marks)

2. What is the purpose of the text written inside the parentheses (brackets) in the passage? (2 marks)

3. Look at the line: 'MAX: (Breathlessly) Pip! I've finally calculated it!' Explain why the character's name is written in capital letters before the colon. (2 marks)

4. Based on the stage directions provided, how should Max be acting when he enters the library? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

5. Why do playwrights use stage directions instead of just describing the action in a narrative style? (3 marks)

6. Imagine a new character, Nova the owl, enters the scene. Write a short script segment (at least four lines of dialogue) where Nova discovers something on the top shelf. Include a scene heading and appropriate stage directions. (5 marks)

7. If Pip and Max were to sell tickets to their library tour for £2.50 each, and they sold 8 tickets, how much money would they make in total? Show your working. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a theatre stage from a bird's-eye view. Label where you think Pip and Max should stand to ensure the audience can see them clearly.



Extension challenge: Total: /20. Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph explaining why it is important for an actor to read both the dialogue and the stage directions before performing a play. (5 marks available for a total of 25)