

Mastering the Stage: Playscript Skills

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

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of playscript conventions to complete the tasks. Ensure your answers use correct punctuation and follow the standard format for drama writing.

N/A

Word bank: Stage directions · Dialogue · Character name · Setting the scene · Parentheses · Colons · Action

1. Explain the purpose of stage directions in a playscript. Why do playwrights include them in brackets or parentheses? (2 marks)

2. Max the monkey is writing a scene where he finds a hidden treasure map. Write the character name and a line of dialogue for Max, including a stage direction about how he is feeling. (2 marks)

3. In a playscript, what punctuation mark should be placed immediately after the character's name before their speech begins? Give an example. (2 marks)

4. Pip the caterpillar is nervous about performing in a play. Write a short stage direction to describe his physical actions to show the audience he is nervous without using the word 'nervous'. (2 marks)

5. Why do playscripts not use quotation marks (speech marks) for the lines spoken by characters? Explain the difference between a playscript and a narrative story. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a stage set for a scene where Nova the owl is teaching a class of forest animals about the constellations. Label where the characters should stand.



Extension challenge: Write a short scene (4-6 lines) between two BookFlik characters of your choice. One character must be trying to solve a maths puzzle involving the price of honey (£4.50) while the other character tries to distract them with a story.