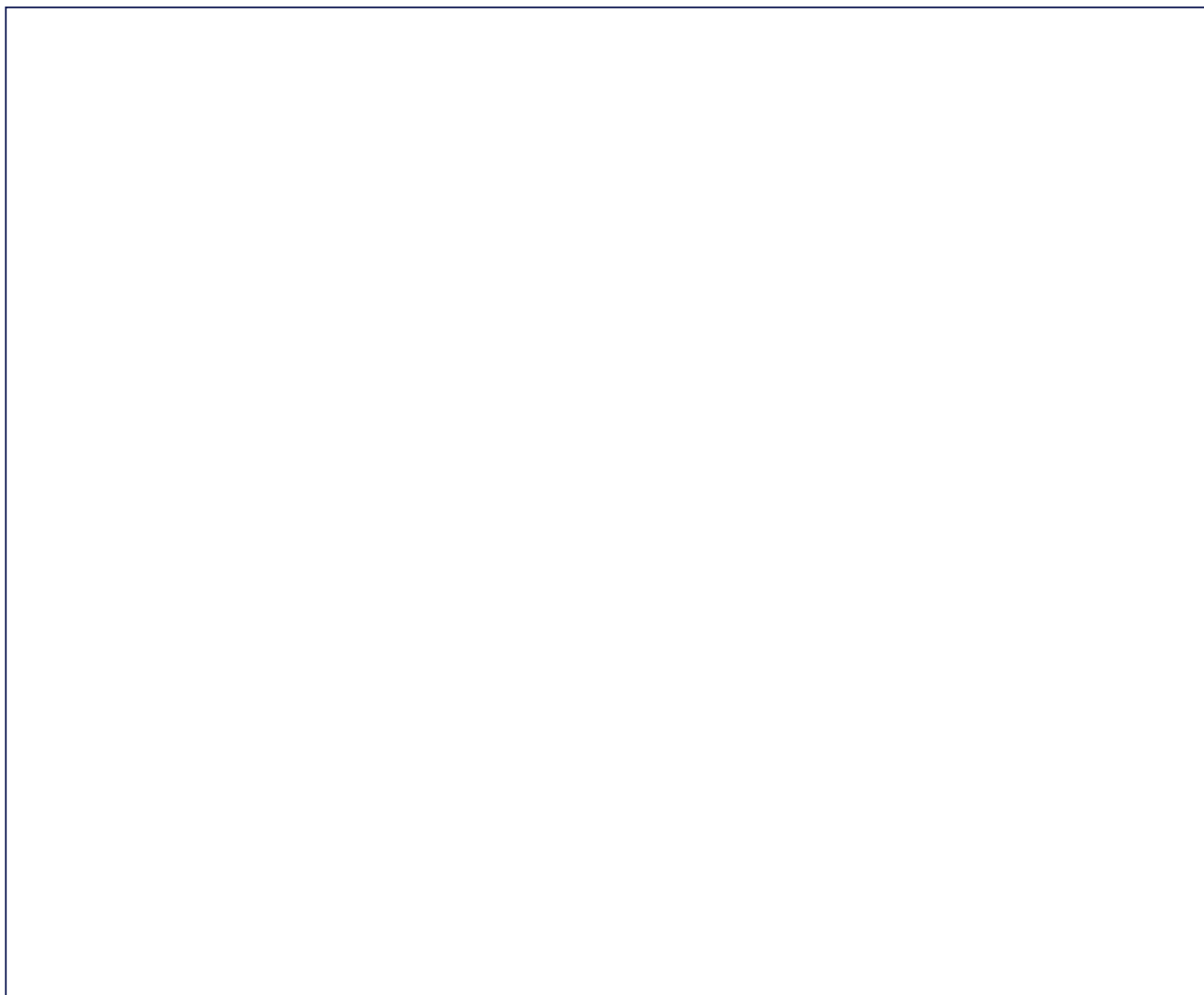


Staging the Story: A Playscript Design Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the structural features of a playscript and visualise the stage directions for a performance.

Imagine you are the director for a new play starring Max the Monkey. Use the space below to design the set for the opening scene. Use the labels from the word bank to annotate your drawing, ensuring you show where the characters stand and what the stage looks like.

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a theatre stage. Include Max the Monkey in the centre. Add scenery like tall trees or vines. Include at least two props (e.g., the banana clock). Use arrows to label your drawing with the vocabulary from the word bank. Use a neat, illustrative style, perhaps using coloured pencils to show the 'mood' of the lighting.



Label words: Stage Directions · Prop · Setting · Character · Dialogue · Scenery

Steps:

1. Explain why it is important for a playwright to include stage directions in brackets. How do they help the actor?
2. If Max was holding a clock made of leaves, how would you describe that object using the term 'prop'?
3. Compare and contrast how a storybook describes a scene versus how a playscript describes a scene.
4. Justify your choice of setting. Why does a jungle setting suit Max's personality?

5. What might happen if the stage directions were missing from a script? Explain the potential consequences for the performance.
6. Design a 'Budget Prop': If Max needs to buy a prop from the market that costs £4.50, and he has a £10 note, how much change should he receive? Show your calculation.