

Year 5 Assessment: The Art of the Playscript

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the structural features and conventions of playscripts.

Read the provided extract carefully and answer all questions. Ensure you use technical terminology correctly. Write in full sentences where requested.

[Scene: A sun-drenched library inside a hollowed-out oak tree. Books are stacked precariously high. Pip the caterpillar is perched on a large dictionary, adjusting a pair of spectacles.]

PIP: (Excitedly) Oh, look at this! A word I have never encountered before. 'Mellifluous'. It sounds like honey dripping on a summer afternoon.

[Max the monkey swings into the room, holding a clipboard and a compass.]

MAX: (Checking his watch) Pip! We have exactly four minutes before the Great Forest Maths Challenge begins. Have you calculated the trajectory of the falling acorns yet?

PIP: (Sighing) Max, there is so much more to life than numbers. Have you ever considered the rhythm of a well-chosen adjective?

MAX: (Pacing back and forth) Adjectives don't solve equations, Pip! We need precision!

Word bank: Stage directions · Dialogue · Character name · Setting description · Parentheses · Action · Format

1. Identify two specific structural features used in the passage that distinguish a playscript from a storybook. Explain the purpose of each. (2 marks)

2. Look at the stage directions in parentheses. Why does the author include these instructions for the actors? (2 marks)

3. Contrast the personalities of Pip and Max based solely on their dialogue. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

4. What might happen if the stage directions were removed from this script? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

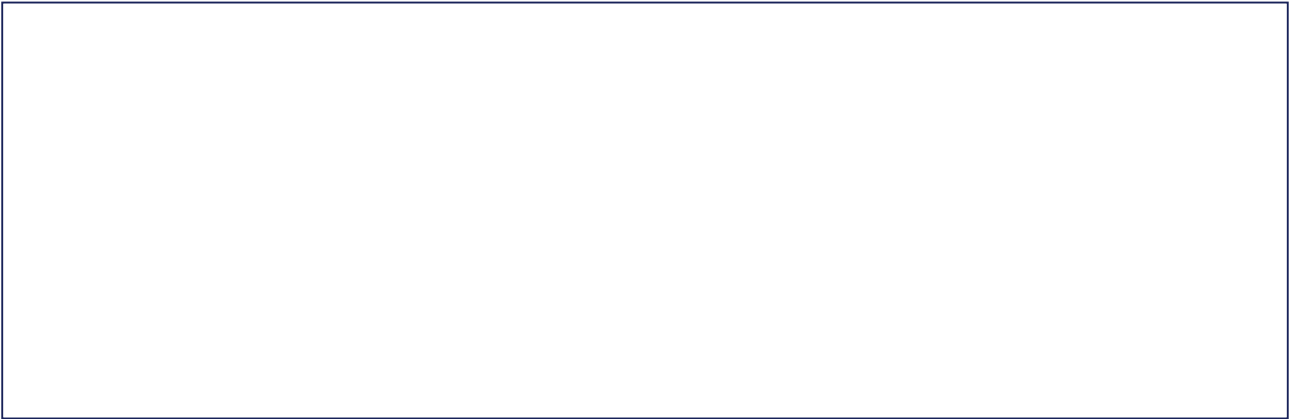
5. Explain why the author chose to use a colon after the character names instead of quotation marks. (2 marks)

6. Imagine the scene continues. Write a short continuation (4-6 lines) of the script where Nova the owl enters to settle the argument, including at least one set of stage directions. (5 marks)

7. Compare and contrast how the setting is established in this playscript compared to a traditional narrative story. (3 marks)

8. If you were the director, how would you instruct the actor playing Max to move during his final line? Explain your choice. (5 marks)

Draw: Sketch a stage layout for the oak tree library, clearly marking where Pip and Max are positioned and where the 'entrance' for the next character would be.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Write a brief critique of the scene above. If you were rewriting this for a theatre production, what sensory details (sounds, lighting, props) would you add to the stage directions to make the scene more immersive for the audience?