

# Staging the Starry Night

*Learning objective: To analyse the structural and linguistic features of a playscript.*

Read the following scene carefully. Look closely at the stage directions and dialogue to understand how Nova the owl prepares for her performance.

Setting: A clearing in the Whispering Woods at dusk. NOVA (an owl wearing a small, starry waistcoat) stands centre stage, adjusting a telescope. PIP (a caterpillar) is perched on a nearby toadstool, clutching a scroll.

NOVA: (Gazing upward, her eyes wide) The constellations are remarkably clear this evening. It is the perfect moment for our performance, Pip!

PIP: (Scanning the scroll frantically) I hope so, Nova! The audience will arrive at any moment. Have you memorised the lines about the Great Comet?

NOVA: (Nods confidently) I have. I shall recite them whilst pointing towards the North Star. Remember, the stage directions say I must move slowly to represent the rotation of the Earth.

PIP: (Chuckling) You are such a perfectionist, Nova. Let us ensure the lighting is focused on your wings, not your feet.

NOVA: (Smiling) Agreed. Let the show commence!

[Nova unfurls her wings as the moonlight catches her feathers. She takes a deep breath and prepares to speak.]

*Word bank: dialogue · stage directions · characterisation · theatre · performance · script · setting*

**1. Identify two specific items that the characters are interacting with during this scene. (2 marks)**

---

**2. What are the stage directions instructing Nova to do when she speaks about the rotation of the Earth? (2 marks)**

---

**3. Based on the passage, how does Pip feel about the upcoming performance? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)**

---

---

---

**4. Explain why the author includes stage directions in brackets rather than just writing them as part of the spoken dialogue. (3 marks)**

---

---

**5. Do you think Nova is well-prepared for her performance? Justify your answer using examples from the text. (4 marks)**

---

---

---

**Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of the stage in the *Whispering Woods*, showing Nova standing by her telescope and Pip on the toadstool with his scroll, including the moonlight lighting the scene.**



*Extension challenge: Write a short continuation of this script (approximately 100 words). Include at least two new stage directions that dictate how the characters should move or express emotion. Explain why you chose those specific directions to enhance the audience's understanding of the scene.*