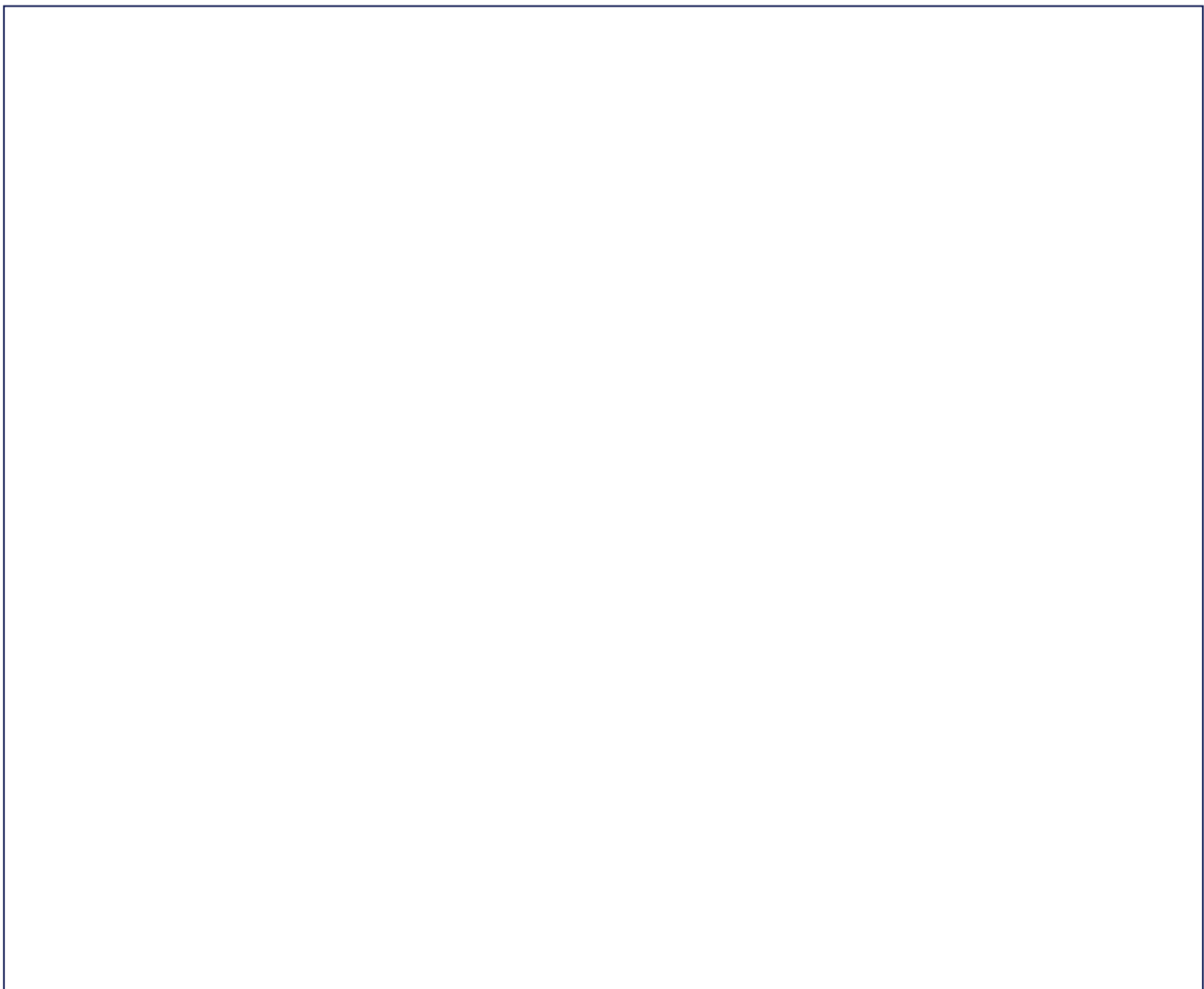


Scripting the Stage: A Visual Blueprint

Learning objective: To understand the layout and conventions of a playscript by visually representing a scene from a fictional performance.

Use the drawing area below to illustrate the opening scene of a play featuring Max the monkey and Pip the bookworm. Ensure your drawing reflects the specific technical elements required for a theatre production, such as the setting and the placement of characters.

Draw: Draw a wide-angle view of a theatre stage. On the left, draw Max the monkey looking confused at a chalkboard covered in maths symbols. On the right, draw a bookshelf where Pip the bookworm is perched. Include clear 'Stage Directions' in brackets around your characters to show how they are moving or feeling. Use a detailed, illustrative style that focuses on the 'mise-en-scène' (the arrangement of everything on stage).



Label words: Stage Directions · Dialogue · Prop · Cast List · Setting Description · Character Entry

Steps:

1. Identify one piece of furniture or item in your drawing that would be considered a 'prop'. Explain how its placement helps the audience understand the scene.
2. If Max were to move to the opposite side of the stage, what technical term would you use in a playscript to describe this movement? Justify your choice.

3. Compare and contrast how a character's emotion is shown in a novel versus how it is shown in a playscript. Which do you find more effective?
4. What might happen if the stage directions were omitted from a script? Explain the impact on the actors and the director.
5. Justify why it is important to include a 'Setting Description' at the start of a playscript.
6. Creative Extension: Draft a short, three-line dialogue between Max and Pip that would follow your drawing. Use correct script format.