

Scripting a Scene: A Playscript Template

Learning objective: To use the features of a playscript, including stage directions, character names, and dialogue, to write an original scene.

Use this template to draft a scene featuring Max the monkey and Nova the owl. Remember to use a colon after character names to indicate dialogue, and place stage directions in brackets to show how the characters move or speak. Think carefully about how your characters' personalities should influence their speech.

Word bank: dramatic · stage directions · dialogue · tone · characterisation · sequencing · interaction · setting

1. Setting the Scene: Describe where Max and Nova are and what the environment looks like. Use sensory language to help the audience visualise the stage. (3 marks)

2. Character Entry: Describe how the first character enters the scene. Use a stage direction to show their mood or physical action. (2 marks)

3. The Conflict: Write a short dialogue where Max and Nova disagree about a maths puzzle or a star constellation. How do they express their different perspectives? (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Explain why you chose specific stage directions for Max. How do these directions change the way the audience understands his character? (3 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How does Nova's way of speaking differ from Max's? Compare their vocabulary and sentence structure. (3 marks)

6. Creative Resolution: Write the final exchange of dialogue where they solve their problem. What might happen if they hadn't listened to each other? (5 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine this playscript is being performed in a theatre. Write a brief 'Director's Note' explaining to the actors how they should perform the scene to make it more engaging for the audience. Use persuasive language to justify your creative choices.