Year 3 English: Mastering Playscripts

Learning objective: To identify, understand, and use the features of a playscript, including stage directions, character names, and dialogue.

Read the short scene below carefully. Use your knowledge of playscripts to answer the questions that follow. Write your answers clearly in the spaces provided.

SCENE: A sunny meadow. Pip the caterpillar is sitting on a large leaf. Max the monkey enters, carrying a basket of fruit.

PIP: (Looking up from a book) Hello Max! Are you going to share those apples?

MAX: (Grinning widely) I have five apples, Pip! If I give you two, how many will I have left for my picnic?

PIP: (Thinking hard) That is a tricky maths puzzle, Max!

Word bank: Dialogue · Stage directions · Character name · Scene setting · Parentheses

1. Identify two features of a playscript used in the passage above. (2 marks)

2. What is the purpose of the words inside the brackets, such as '(Looking up from a book)'? (2 marks)

3. Why do we write the character's name in capital letters on the left-hand side before they speak? (2 marks)

4. In the passage, where is the scene set? List the details provided. (2 marks)

5. Explain why playscripts do not use quotation marks (speech marks) like a storybook does. (4 marks)

6. Rewrite the following sentence from a story into playscript format: 'Zara the zebra sighed and looked at her paintbrush. "I have run out of blue paint," she whispered sadly.' (3 marks)

7. Write a short scene (4-5 lines of dialogue) where Nova the owl asks Finn the dolphin a question about the ocean. Remember to include a scene setting and stage directions. (10 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of what the stage would look like for the scene between Pip and Max. Include the leaf, the basket of fruit, and the two characters.

Extension challenge: Challenge: Write a stage direction for a character who is feeling very excited. How would they move or speak? Total: /25