Scriptwriter’s Scene: Designing the Stage

Learning objective: To understand the layout of a playscript and how stage directions help the audience and actors visualise a scene.

Imagine you are writing a play for Pip the bookworm caterpillar. Use the space below to design the setting for his new play. Once your scene is drawn, use the word bank to label the important parts of your stage.

Draw: Draw a theatrical stage showing a scene for Pip the caterpillar. Include a colourful backdrop (like a giant garden or a library), at least two props (like a miniature toadstool or a stack of books), and Pip in the centre. Use a clear, bold style as if you are drawing a set design for a theatre production.

Label words: Stage Directions · Prop · Character · Setting · Backdrop

Steps:

1. Where does your scene take place? Write a one-sentence stage direction to describe the setting.
2. Why is it important for a play to have a clear setting? Explain your answer.
3. Label your drawing. Use at least three words from the word bank to point out features of your stage design.
4. If Pip is on stage, what is he doing? Write one line of dialogue for him to say.
5. Which 'Prop' did you include in your drawing to make the scene more interesting?