Max the Monkey's Playscript Puzzle

Learning objective: To identify and understand the key features of a playscript, including stage directions, characters, and dialogue.

Max the Monkey is putting on a school play! Help him get the script ready by answering these ten quick questions. Read each question carefully and write your answer clearly.

Answer Key: 1. A, 2. B, 3. True, 4. Stage directions, 5. C, 6. False, 7. Dialogue, 8. B, 9. True, 10. The audience.

Word bank: Dialogue · Stage directions · Character names · Setting · Scene · Bracket · Actor

1. 1. Which of these is the best way to show who is speaking in a playscript? A) Writing their name at the start of the line* B) Putting their name at the bottom C) Using speech marks D) Drawing a picture (1 mark)

2. 2. Where are stage directions usually found? A) Inside speech marks B) Inside brackets/parentheses* C) At the very end of the play D) In the title (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: Stage directions tell the actors how to move or how to say their lines. (True/False) (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the specific name for the instructions written in brackets that tell an actor what to do? (1 mark)

5. 5. Which of these would you find at the very beginning of a playscript? A) A list of maths sums B) A recipe C) A list of characters* D) A map (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Playscripts always use speech marks (inverted commas) for everything a character says. (True/False) (1 mark)

7. 7. What is the name for the spoken words between characters in a play? (1 mark)

8. 8. Why are stage directions written in a different style (like italics)? A) To look fancy B) To separate them from the spoken words* C) To make them harder to read D) To save ink (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: A playscript is meant to be performed, not just read silently. (True/False) (1 mark)

10. 10. Who is the play being written for? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from a play where Max the Monkey is acting on stage. Include one speech bubble for what he says and one set of stage directions in brackets showing what he is doing (e.g., [Max jumps excitedly]).

Extension challenge: Write a short playscript (3 lines of dialogue) featuring Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl discussing their favourite books. Remember to use character names and add one set of stage directions in brackets!