Scriptwriter’s Studio: Designing the Stage

Learning objective: To understand the layout and key features of a playscript by visually representing a scene.

Use the drawing space to create a stage design for a play scene. Ensure your drawing includes the essential elements listed in the word bank to help a reader understand the performance setting.

Draw: Draw a top-down or side-view 'stage design' for a play. Include a central prop (like a dusty old clock or a giant oak tree), two character positions marked with labels, and a clearly defined area for the 'Scene Heading' at the top. Use clean lines and clear labels to point to where the dialogue would be scripted on the page beside your drawing.

Label words: Stage Directions · Character Name · Dialogue · Prop · Setting · Scene Heading

Steps:

1. Where should the 'Scene Heading' be placed on your page, and why is it important for the audience to know this information?
2. If a character is holding a 'Prop' in your drawing, where would you write the stage direction for that action?
3. Explain why 'Stage Directions' are written in brackets or italics in a professional script.
4. Label the areas in your drawing that represent the 'Setting' of your scene.
5. Write a short line of 'Dialogue' for a character standing on your drawn stage.