Mastering Playscripts: Year 6 English Flashcards

Learning objective: To understand the key features and structure of a playscript as required by the Year 6 National Curriculum.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of playscript features. Read the front, try to recall the definition, and check your answer on the back.

What is a 'Playscript'?

A written document that contains the dialogue and instructions for actors to perform a play.

What are 'Stage Directions'?

Instructions written in brackets or italics that tell the actors how to move, speak, or express emotion.

How is 'Dialogue' presented in a playscript?

The character's name is written on the left, followed by a colon, then what they say.

What is a 'Scene Heading'?

A short description at the start of a scene indicating the location and time of day (e.g., THE FOREST - NIGHT).

What is the 'Cast List'?

A list at the beginning of the script that identifies all the characters appearing in the play.

What is an 'Act' in a play?

A main division of a play, similar to a chapter in a book, often containing several scenes.

What are 'Props'?

The items (short for 'properties') that characters hold or use on stage during the performance.

Why do we use 'Colons' in a playscript?

They are placed after the character's name to show that the following text is their spoken dialogue.

Where should the setting be described?

Usually in the stage directions at the very start of a scene or act.

What is the role of a 'Narrator' in a script?

A character who speaks directly to the audience to provide context or explain parts of the story that are not shown on stage.