Max and Kit's Playscript Challenge

Learning objective: To identify and apply the key structural features of a playscript, including stage directions, dialogue, and character names.

Help Max the monkey and Kit the fox organise their school play! Read each question carefully and circle or write your answer to prove you are a script-writing expert.

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

Word bank: Dialogue · Stage directions · Character names · Setting · Acts · Scenes · Parentheses · Script

1. 1. Which of these is used to tell actors how to move or speak? A) Speech marks B) Bullet points C) Stage directions* D) Footnotes (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Character names are usually written on the left-hand side of the page followed by a colon. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the technical term for the words written in brackets to describe a character's tone of voice? (1 mark)

4. 4. Where would you find the information about the time and place at the start of a scene? A) The glossary B) The setting description* C) The index D) The character list (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: You should use speech marks (" ") around every line of dialogue in a playscript. (1 mark)

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

7. 7. How are acts and scenes usually numbered? A) Roman numerals or digits* B) Colour codes C) Symbols D) Musical notes (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Stage directions are often written in italics to distinguish them from spoken dialogue. (1 mark)

9. 9. What must character names always start with to ensure they stand out on the page? (1 mark)

10. 10. Why are playscripts formatted differently from novels? A) To save paper B) To make it easier for actors to read their lines* C) To make it look like a poem D) To confuse the audience (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from a play where Max the monkey is performing on stage. Include a small 'stage direction' in brackets at the bottom of your drawing describing what Max is doing (e.g., [Max jumps excitedly onto the table]).

Extension challenge: Write a short script (no more than 10 lines) featuring Pip the caterpillar and Nova the owl discussing their plans for a picnic. Remember to include at least two stage directions!