Performing Plays: The Library Adventure

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

Read the short playscript below featuring Pip the bookworm and Max the monkey. Use the text to answer the questions that follow.

SCENE 1: The Tall Oak Library

(The stage is filled with colourful bookshelves. Pip the caterpillar is perched on a large dictionary. Max the monkey enters, carrying a basket of numbered blocks.)

MAX: (Excitedly) Pip! I have found a pattern in these books. If we stack them by size, we can solve the puzzle!

PIP: (Smiling) That sounds like a wonderful idea, Max. But we must be very quiet. This is a library!

MAX: (Whispering) Oh, you are right. Let us count the books silently while we stack them.

PIP: (Pointing to a shelf) Look, there are five books on the bottom shelf and three on the top. That makes eight in total!

(Max nods and begins to carefully balance the books.)

Word bank: dialogue · stage directions · character · scene · script

1. Identify two features of a playscript shown in the text above. (2 marks)

2. Where are the stage directions located in this script, and how can you tell them apart from the dialogue? (2 marks)

3. How does Max change his behaviour after Pip reminds him to be quiet? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think the author chose to include stage directions like '(Whispering)' or '(Smiling)'? (2 marks)

5. If you were performing this scene, how would you change your voice when reading Pip's lines compared to Max's lines? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the scene described in the script, showing Pip the caterpillar on the dictionary and Max the monkey stacking the books carefully.

Extension challenge: Write a new line of dialogue for this script where Pip finds a book about maths and Max finds a book about poetry. Remember to include a stage direction in brackets!