

Mastering the Playscript: A Guide for Young Playwrights

Step into the Spotlight: Bring your stories to life on the stage!

- **The Character List** appears at the very beginning of a script, introducing the actors and providing a brief description of their roles.
- **Scene Headings** are written in capital letters to clearly state where and when the action is taking place, such as 'SCENE 1: THE LIBRARY - DAY'.
- **Dialogue** is the spoken words of the characters. Unlike a story, you do not use inverted commas (speech marks); simply write the character's name followed by a colon.
- **Stage Directions** are written in brackets or italics. They tell the actors how to move, what emotions to show, or how to speak their lines.
- **Formatting matters!** Keeping a consistent layout helps the director and actors read the script quickly during rehearsals.

Did you know? Did you know? In the early days of theatre, plays were often performed in the open air during daylight hours because there was no electricity for stage lighting. Playscripts were essential to ensure every actor knew exactly when to enter and exit the stage!

Key vocabulary: Dialogue · Stage Directions · Character List · Scene Heading · Parentheses · Cast · Setting