A Day at the Theater with Pip

Learning objective: To understand the structure and features of a playscript.

Read the short script excerpt below carefully, then answer the questions that follow.

Setting: A sunny garden. Pip the caterpillar is sitting on a large leaf. Max the monkey enters, carrying a basket of fruit.

Max: (Smiling broadly) Hello, Pip! I have been working on a math puzzle, but I need a snack break. Would you like to share some strawberries?

Pip: (Wiggling with excitement) Oh, yes please, Max! I have been reading a wonderful story about a brave explorer, but my tummy is starting to rumble.

Max: (Puts the basket down on the grass) Excellent. If we have twelve strawberries and we share them equally, how many does that give us each?

Pip: (Laughing) You and your numbers! Let us just enjoy the fruit first.

[Pip reaches for a strawberry. Max sits down beside him.]

Setting: The sun begins to set behind the trees.

Max: (Looking up at the sky) It is almost time to go home. That was a lovely snack, Pip.

Pip: It certainly was. The best stories are always better when shared with a friend.

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

1. Where does this scene take place? (1 mark)

2. What is Max carrying when he first enters the garden? (1 mark)

3. Why does Max bring up a math puzzle during their snack? (2 marks)

4. How do we know that Pip and Max are good friends? (2 marks)

5. Why are the stage directions (in brackets) important for someone acting out this play? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar and Max the monkey sitting in the garden sharing their strawberries. Include the basket mentioned in the script.

Extension challenge: Write a short scene where a new character enters the garden. Remember to include the character's name in bold, followed by a colon, and add stage directions in brackets to show how they are moving or feeling.