Scriptwriter’s Studio with Leo the Lion

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

Leo the Lion is writing a play about a grand adventure! However, he has mixed up his script notes. Use the words from the bank to complete the script extract. Once filled, read the instructions in brackets to ensure the scene flows correctly.

Word bank: Stage directions · Dialogue · Character name · Colon · Setting the scene

1. 1. [_____]: (Leo stands center stage, looking through a golden telescope at the horizon.) (1 mark)

2. 2. Leo [_____]: I wonder what treasures lie beyond the Great Whispering Forest? (1 mark)

3. 3. Which punctuation mark should always follow a character's name to separate it from their spoken words? [_____] (1 mark)

4. 4. Explain why the text in brackets (like 'Leo stands center stage') is essential for a play, rather than a novel. How does it help the actors? (2 marks)

5. 5. Write a short line of dialogue for a second character, Pip the Caterpillar, to reply to Leo, ensuring you include a stage direction about how Pip moves. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view of a theater stage. Label where you think the characters should stand based on the script directions provided in the activity.

Extension challenge: Imagine a scene where Leo and Pip find a mysterious map. Write a 5-line playscript including one action that requires a prop and one piece of dialogue that reveals a character's personality.