# Mastering the Playscript: A Day at the Library

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

Read the short playscript below featuring Pip the bookworm and Max the monkey. Then, answer the questions to show your understanding of how playscripts are written and formatted.

Setting: The Whispering Woods Library. Sunlight streams through the oak-leaf window. Pip is perched on a high bookshelf, while Max is counting stacks of books on the floor.

PIP: (Excitedly) Max, I have finally found the rarest book in the collection! It has gold-leaf pages.

MAX: (Looking up and scratching his head) That is brilliant, Pip! But how many books are in that pile? I have counted thirty-two, but my math brain thinks there should be thirty-five.

PIP: (Gently patting a spine) Don’t worry about the numbers for a second. Just look at the beautiful illustrations!

MAX: (Adjusting his glasses) I will help you organize them by size first, then we can count the illustrations later.

*Word bank: Dialogue · Stage directions · Character names · Setting · Parentheses · Cast list*

**1. Identify one example of a stage direction in the passage. Why are stage directions included in a playscript? (2 marks)**

**2. How are the character names presented in this playscript, and why is this layout important for actors? (2 marks)**

**3. Look at the dialogue between Pip and Max. How does the author show the reader that the characters are speaking in different ways? (2 marks)**

**4. Why is the 'Setting' section included at the very beginning of the playscript? (1 mark)**

**5. If you were writing this scene, what extra detail would you add to the stage directions to help the actors understand how the characters are feeling? (2 marks)**

**Draw: Draw a scene of the Whispering Woods Library based on the description in the playscript. Include Pip on the high shelf and Max counting his books on the floor.**

*Extension challenge: Write a short continuation of the script (4-6 lines) where a third character, Nova the owl, enters the library to ask a science question about the books.*