

## Playscript knowledge organiser

### PIE – entertain

#### Features of playscripts

It may be divided into acts which are then divided into scenes.

Each scene will have a description of the setting at the start and then the characters' dialogue

Starts by setting the scene

Tells the reader what characters are saying and doing, but does not use speech marks

Every time the setting changes (changes place or time) a new scene is started

#### Grammatical features

Stage directions in present tense and in brackets

Colons after character's name

Well-chosen adverbs to describe how the actors must move and speak

Capital letters and italics are often used for emphasis

Use of ellipses to show a character is thinking or stuttering

#### Vocabulary

**Act/ Scene** - An act is a division or unit of a theatre work, including a play, film, opera, and musical theatre

**Characters**- People acting in a playscript

**Setting** - Setting is the time and place (or when and where) of the story

**Narrator** Some scripts include a character called a narrator. These are characters which explain what is going on in the story for the benefit of the audience. They do not have to be a character in the story, but their lines are written in the same way as any other character's.

**Audience** The people who watch the performance; those for whom the performance is intended.

**Dialogue** The dialogue refers to the words that will be spoken by the actors.

**Speaker** A person who speaks

**Formal language** - Formal language is characterized by the use of standard English, more complex sentence structures, infrequent use of personal pronouns, and lack of colloquial or slang terms.

**Informal Language** Informal language allows the use of nonstandard English forms, colloquial vocabulary and typically shorter sentence structures.

#### Stages directions

These can be short directions in brackets, or a sentence that fully explains how you want the actor to behave/speak

*(Walking towards the door)*

*(Leaning towards him)*

*(Rushing quickly)*

*(Laughing uncontrollably)*

*(Trying not to laugh)*

*(Looking up angrily)*  
*(Sitting down next to him)*  
*(Snatching the phone)*

*(Cassie walks towards Janey and snatches the phone from her hand.)*

**Adverbs:**

hurriedly  
calmly  
angrily  
anxiously  
nervously  
hopefully  
confidently  
irritably  
in frustration  
miserably  
joyfully