

# Features of a play script

What is a play script?

A written version of a play used by actors to prepare and rehearse for a performance.

# Character List

## JACK AND THE BEANSTALK

### CHARACTERS (In Order Of Appearance)

JACK  
JACQUELINE, his mother  
POULTRY WOMAN  
DAIRY MAID  
BUTTERCUP, a cow  
FRIPPERY, a fairy godmother  
JONATHAN, Jack's father  
COLOSSUS, a giant

### SYNOPSIS

Scene One: Jack's cottage, early morning  
Scene Two: The giant's castle, half an hour later  
Scene Three: Jack's cottage, that afternoon

- Found at the beginning of a play script.
- It tells us what characters are in the play.
- Sometimes it gives us a description of the character and their characteristics.

### CAST OF CHARACTERS (In Order of Appearance)

	<i># of lines</i>
ALICE.....a young girl	270
WHITE RABBIT.....never on time	41
MOUSE.....a long tale to tell	27
MOCK TURTLE.....not a real turtle, but close enough	20
LORY.....a kind of parrot	20
DODO.....a strange-looking bird	20
RED QUEEN.....a chess figure	39
SOLDIER ONE.....a playing card	6
KNAVE OF HEARTS.....another card	2
SOLDIER TWO.....another	6
QUEEN OF HEARTS.....a tyrant	29
CATERPILLAR.....a sleepy sort	14
FISH FOOTMAN.....a servant	3
FROG FOOTMAN.....another	8
DUCHESS.....a domineering type	15
COOK.....loves pepper	14
CHESHIRE CAT.....walks about without its grin	10
TWEEDLEDEE.....a fat little schoolboy	7
TWEEDLEDUM.....his twin	9
MAD HATTER.....mad as a March Hare	26
MARCH HARE.....mad as a Hatter	25
DORMOUSE.....a sleepy-type rodent	10
ROSE.....a talking flower	8
LILY.....another	8
DAISY.....another	9
WHITE QUEEN.....another chess figure	30
KNIGHT.....an aged horseman	20
HUMPTY DUMPTY.....a conceited egg	21
KING OF HEARTS.....monarch of Wonderland	35
SISTER.....Alice's elder sister	2
ADDITIONAL CITIZENS OF WONDERLAND.....as desired	n/a

# Stage directions

ACT I

SCENE 1

*The football-club locker-room. The locker-room is dark and empty. The main lights are switched on. OLD JOHN and TONY enter stage right. OLD JOHN is walking with the help of a stick.*

OLD JOHN      New paint job is it?

TONY            New paint. New benches. New lockers. Even got new soap for the showers.

OLD JOHN      *(Sits on a bench)* I don't recognise anything anymore. Except the smell.

TONY            Don't suppose that ever changes

*(BRIAN enters stage left. BRIAN is wearing a tracksuit. He's been on a run and looks flushed; out of breath.)*

BRIAN           Hi, Tony. Who's your boyfriend?

- Used to set the scene.
- They are an instruction. They tell an actor what they should be doing in that scene (their actions) or how they should talk.
- Normally presented in brackets or in *italics*.

## Scene 1

*The drawing room of Lady and Lord Montague, which is furnished with plush carpets, silk curtains and beautifully carved antique furniture. Lord Montague is sitting on a velvet sofa, smoking a pipe and reading the paper. Lady Montague is sitting at a grand piano, trying but failing to play a melody.*

# Setting the scene

It is a dark, cold night and Mel and Sid are sitting on a green park bench. The street lights are dim and the sound of the traffic can just be heard in the background.

*SCENE ONE: Daddy bear comes into the house. Mummy and baby follow him. They are tired after their morning walk in the woods.*

- Gives the actors information/a description about the scene.
- Where it is.
- What it is like (weather).
- Who is there.

# Dialogue

## Stage Script - Macbeth

### Act 1, Scene 1

SCENE I. A desert place.

*Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches*

**First Witch:** When shall we three meet again  
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

**Second Witch:** When the hurlyburly's done,  
When the battle's lost and won.

**Third Witch:** That will be ere the set of sun.

**First Witch:** Where the place?

**Second Witch:** Upon the heath.

**Third Witch:** There to meet with Macbeth.



- The speech between characters.
- The character's names are on the left hand side of the page.
- No speech marks.
- The speech is separated by a colon (:)

# Scenes

## Scene 1


*The drawing room of Lady and Lord Montague, which is furnished with plush carpets, silk curtains and beautifully carved antique furniture. Lord Montague is sitting on a velvet sofa, smoking a pipe and reading the paper. Lady Montague is sitting at a grand piano, trying but failing to play a melody.*

Lady Montague: Try as I might, I simply cannot get this blessed melody right!

Lord Montague: You are trying too hard, darling. Relax, look at the notes and let your fingers find their way to the right notes. Stop trying to get it right. Just feel the music.

Lady Montague: *(pushing a strand of hair from her face wearily)* Yes. Perhaps you are right.

- Like chapters in a book, it is a different part of the play.
- Used when you want to change the location or the time the dialogue is taking place.
- At the start of a new scene, it is important to say where and when it is happening.



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