

# Analysing the Features of a Play Script

As you read through the script, you might like to draw pupils' attention to the key features of a play script or to some other important features in the text.

Includes theatre terms such as 'upstage' and 'downstage', 'lights up/down' and 'onstage/offstage'<sup>1</sup>

May include a narrator<sup>2</sup>

Includes stage directions with brackets when added into dialogue, adverbs or actions<sup>6</sup>

Includes stage directions to show the actors what to do<sup>5</sup>

Includes dialogue with no speech marks<sup>3</sup>

Includes speakers' names on the left<sup>4</sup>

Some stage directions show how the speech is done (acts like a reporting clause)<sup>7</sup>

## Characters

- Little Rabbit** - a younger sibling, eager for a story
- Big Rabbit** - an older sibling, and our animal narrator
- Red** - a young girl who wears a red, hooded cape
- Mother** - usually baking, she wears a floury apron and carries a rolling pin
- Wolf** - a very fine-looking gentleman with thick hair, bright eyes and very big, white teeth, who turns out to be a trickster
- Granny** - a widow with a frail voice who lives alone in the forest, and who loves to knit and bake
- Woodcutter** - though he's getting on in years, he still feels flutters of affection in his heart when he sees Granny's face

Includes a cast list

Includes a brief description of each character's personality traits

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## Scene 1 – Mother's Kitchen

*Lights up.<sup>1</sup> The narrators<sup>2</sup>, Big Rabbit and Little Rabbit, stand downstage.<sup>1</sup>*

**Little Rabbit<sup>4</sup>:** Big Rabbit, Big Rabbit, is it time for a story?<sup>3</sup>

**Big Rabbit<sup>4</sup>:** What story would you like?<sup>3</sup>

**Little Rabbit<sup>4</sup>:** Do you know the story of Little Red Riding Hood?<sup>3</sup>

**Big Rabbit<sup>4</sup>:** *(excited<sup>6</sup>)* Of course I do! Let me just think how it begins. Ah yes, I remember!<sup>3</sup>

*Lights up on a cottage on the outskirts of a great forest. It is a spring day.*

**Big Rabbit<sup>4</sup>:** Once upon a time – and a very fine time it was – a girl called Red lived with her mother, in a cottage on the outskirts of a great forest.<sup>3</sup>

*Mother takes a batch of fresh cupcakes from the oven and places them on the table.<sup>5</sup>*

**Mother<sup>4</sup>:** Little Red! *(bangs the rolling pin on the table<sup>6</sup>)*  
Little Red! Time to get up.<sup>3</sup>

**Red<sup>4</sup>:** *(offstage<sup>1</sup>)* Coming, Mother!<sup>3</sup>

*Mother looks up at the clock (it's noon) and taps her foot angrily. Red enters the kitchen in a red cape. Seeing the cupcakes, she reaches out to take one, but her hand stops as Mother turns to glare.<sup>5</sup>*

Is structured using numbered scenes

Explanation of where the scene takes place

Includes short descriptions of each scene's setting

Includes theatre terms such as 'upstage' and 'downstage', 'lights up/down' and 'onstage/offstage'<sup>1</sup>

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**Red<sup>4</sup>:** These smell delicious. (*backing away<sup>6</sup>*) You've been busy, Mother. Who are they for?<sup>3</sup>

**Mother<sup>4</sup>:** They're for Granny, so keep your mucky fingers off. I didn't raise you to steal from little old ladies. Why, your poor granny lives alone in the forest, surrounded by fearsome creatures. The least I can do is bake her a cupcake or two every now and then.<sup>3</sup>

**Red<sup>4</sup>:** (*rubbing her tummy<sup>6</sup>*) I wouldn't dream of touching Granny's cupcakes.<sup>3</sup>

*Mother piles the cupcakes into a wicker basket, then puts her hands on her hips.<sup>5</sup>*

**Mother<sup>4</sup>:** (*huffing<sup>7</sup>*) Now, you're to take this basket straight to Granny's. No dilly-dallying, keep to the path, and never ever talk to strangers. Do you hear me?<sup>3</sup>

**Red<sup>4</sup>:** (*sighing<sup>7</sup>*) Yes, Mother.<sup>3</sup>

*Red takes the basket and hurries from the kitchen.<sup>5</sup>*

**Big Rabbit<sup>2,4</sup>:** And with that, Little Red Riding Hood hurried from the kitchen into the glorious spring sunshine.<sup>3</sup>

*Lights down.<sup>1</sup>*

Starts a new line for each speaker

Narrator starts and ends each scene