

Writing

Below are writing activities for you to do this week.

Make sure you write at least a page for each piece.

This week is based on: *Play scripts*

Activity 1

Look at the examples below, what features are included in this play script? What features are not included in this example? Why?

Example
1

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.

Oliver Twist

Scene One – The Workhouse

(Narrator stands in front of the closed stage curtain. A spotlight shines on them.)

Narrator: Oliver Twist finds himself being cared for by an old lady, three miles from where he once lived. He spends his days with 20 or 30 other children. They lie on the floor with their stomachs rumbling. On his ninth birthday, Oliver is pale, thin, short and in need of a wash. However, Oliver is not unhappy.

Unexpectedly, Mr Bumble visits the workhouse. As Oliver is now nine years old, Mr Bumble explains to Mrs Mann that he is too old to stay in her care. He says that Oliver must return to the workhouse and he takes him to begin yet another new life.

(Curtains open as Narrator exits to stage right. Five workhouse orphans, including Oliver, walk across the stage towards stage left. They are holding empty bowls. At stage left, the boys join the back of the queue in front of two women and The Master. These people wear aprons and scoop sloppy food into each boy's bowl.)

Boy 1: **(holding his stomach)** I'm so hungry. If I don't have an extra spoonful of food today, I'm scared that I might eat the boy who sleeps next to me!

Boy 2: **(quietly)** One of us should say something. We should ask for more food.

**Boy 3 and
Boy 4:** **(together)** Not me!

(All characters move forward one place in the queue. The children before move to sit around the table with their full bowl.)

Boy 2: What about you, Oliver?

Scene 2

Lights go up to show inside Baucis and Philemon's home. Zeus and Hermes are sat at a small, wooden table. Baucis and Philemon are standing.

Baucis: Let me introduce you to my husband, Philemon.

Philemon: You are most welcome in our home. You have been walking and must be thirsty, would you take some wine?

(Philemon points to the only jug on the table.)

Hermes: We couldn't drink your last jug of wine.

Baucis: You are our guests and we will offer you whatever we have. Please, take some wine.

(Zeus and Hermes nod in acceptance. Philemon pours the wine out for the men whilst Baucis goes into the kitchen area, returning with a platter of meat and bread and placing it down on the table.)

Baucis: It isn't much, but please enjoy this bread and meat.

Zeus: This is a wonderful feast.

(The two men begin to eat and drink as Philemon and Baucis sit down at the table. Once they are seated, there is a freeze frame as the lights go down.)

Lights down

Here's something that may make the features a little clearer for you. Even though we don't use inverted commas for speech, does that mean we don't use any PAG features? NO! We can still show off and guide the reader/actors in how to read the lines by using our PAG.

Now go back over the three examples and from each one pick out something you like and dislike. Write them down in your workbook and, of course, provide a reason why.

Features of a Play Script

Key

Character names	Speech
Setting the scene	Character directions within speech
Stage directions	

No inverted commas are needed!

The Mad Hatter, Dormouse and Hare are sitting at a table having afternoon tea.

Alice enters the scene, stage left.

Mad Hatter: *(starts for a moment, pauses and a broad grin appears across his face. He gets up out of his chair and walks across the table towards Alice)*
It's you.

Dormouse: *(exasperated)* No it's not! Hare brought us the wrong Alice!

Hare: *(gasps and throws his hands against his head)* It's the wrong Alice!

Mad Hatter: You're absolutely Alice, I'd know you anywhere!
(to the rest of the characters at the table)
I'd know her anywhere!

Dormouse and Hare laugh maniacally.

Well, as you can see we're still having tea. You're terribly late you know... naughty.

Alice: I'm incredibly intrigued.

Mad Hatter: Yes yes of course, but now we must get onto the Frabjous Day!

Dormouse & Hare together: FRABJOUS DAY!!

Mad Hatter: We're investigating things that begin with the letter M.

(whispers) Have you any idea why a raven is like a writing desk?



Activity 2

Before the action kicks off and you write your play script you need to give us information. In your work books list your characters, their traits and their relationships. Have at least four characters so your play script can have lots of interaction and drama.

For example:

Miss Mackey: short, blonde, loves to sing and dance, a little crazy sarcastic.....

Miss Corrales: short, brunette, loves science, clever, best friends with Miss Mackey....

Mrs Conway: Miss Mackey's evil cousin....

Mrs Spencer: always trying to stop Mrs. Conway's evil plans, loves reading...

As you can see from the ellipsis there is more that can be written, these are shorter examples to help you.

Once this is done, describe your setting for scene one. Think about somewhere interesting and explain why they are there. Think about the story - do you want it to be scary? Is it an average day? Lots of you loved the scary and suspense unit of work, you could use your ideas from that genre here too.

For example:

Scene One

Miss Mackey and Miss Corrales are eating breakfast at a messy kitchen work top. Miss Corrales is eating toast and Miss Mackey is pouring her milk into a large, metallic silver bowl. They were discussing their day ahead when Mrs. Conway interrupted them, bringing bad news and drama - as always. Miss Mackey was so shocked she spilt her cereal and the scene starts with her mopping it up, Miss Corrales with her head in her hands and Mrs Conway flapping her face and being rather frantic. Music is playing from the radio and two windows are open and you can hear traffic and birds etc.

Again, yours can be more detailed and impressive. You may start without characters and they enter as the scene unfolds.

Activity 3

Write your play script. Think about people acting it out as you write. Think about the stage directions and how you want people to deliver lines.

Mrs Spencer: (*cautiously*) Perhaps...perhaps you should...calm down Mrs Conway. Have a cup of tea? Go home to relax?

The word *cautiously* shows the reader Mrs Spencer is worried about how Mrs Conway will answer or react to her.

Have fun with your play script, you're in charge, what will you make your characters do? Will they have a fight? Are they hatching a multi-million pound plan?

Activity 4

Edit

On a new day, with fresh eyes, please read both of your play script through and edit. Get a dictionary and thesaurus. If there is an adult available read it through with them and ask for some feedback. Please be open to editing Year 6. It is hard when you've tried your best but we are all human and make mistakes and there's always room for improvement ☺

Activity 5

What is one of our favourite things to do in Year 6 and pushes us out of our comfort zones and entertains our classmates? PERFORM!

Is your adult willing to appear in your scene? Can you put on a show for your family? Perhaps you put on a one-person show and use different voices and gestures for each character. Now that's a performance (and challenge)!!

I may get writing my play script and send it to my family so we can perform it via FaceTime! I'm excited!

Enjoy, Year 6 drama Kings and Queens ☺