

Recognising Features of a Play Script

Read the following extract from the Little Red Riding Hood play script. Use coloured pencils to find examples of the following features in the text:

Narrator

Stage directions

Scene number

Present tense in stage directions

Theatre words

Brackets/
parenthesis

Description
of setting

Character names on
the left

Scene 1 – Mother's Kitchen

Lights up. The narrators, Big Rabbit and Little Rabbit, stand downstage.

Little Rabbit: Big Rabbit, Big Rabbit, is it time for a story?

Big Rabbit: What story would you like?

Little Rabbit: Do you know the story of Little Red Riding Hood?

Big Rabbit: *(excited)* Of course I do! Let me just think how it begins. Ah yes, I remember!

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

Big Rabbit: 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.

Mother takes a batch of fresh cupcakes from the oven and places them on the table.

Mother: Little Red! *(bangs the rolling pin on the table)* Little Red! Time to get up.

Red: *(offstage)* Coming, Mother!

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.

Red: These smell delicious. *(backing away)* You've been busy, Mother. Who are they for?

Narrator

Stage directions

Scene number

Present tense in stage directions

Theatre words

**Brackets/
parenthesis**

**Description
of setting**

**Character names
on the left**

Mother: 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.

Red: *(rubbing her tummy)* I wouldn't dream of touching Granny's cupcakes.

Mother piles the cupcakes into a wicker basket, then puts her hands on her hips.

Mother: *(huffing)* 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?

Red: *(sighing)* Yes, Mother.

Red takes the basket and hurries from the kitchen.

Big Rabbit: And with that, Little Red Riding Hood hurried from the kitchen into the glorious spring sunshine.



Lights down