

English 4 – Playscripts

L.O. To read and write playscripts.

Quiz!

The lights suddenly went out. In the darkness, the wind and rain grew louder and seemed closer... Joey sat still, his heart beating fast. It made a 'thump, thump, thump' noise in his chest.

1. How was Joey feeling? Why?

Joey was feeling frightened (scared/anxious/nervous) because of the storm outside which made the lights go out.

It seemed a shadow had fallen over him. But there was no shadow. His heart had given a great jump up into his throat and was choking him. Then his blood slowly chilled and he felt the sweat his cold shirt against his flesh.

2. How was Bill feeling? Why?

Bill was feeling panicked (frightened/anxious/nervous/scared) because of a shadow he sensed was near, but which he could not see.

GP

Here is a quote from the story of Goldilocks:

Susan hesitated. Her breath quickened and her hand began to tremble.

In a playscript, you would write this as a stage direction (using the present tense) to show how the character is feeling in brackets or italics:

[Susan hesitates. Her breath quickens and her hand begins to tremble.]

Remember, in playscripts we don't need to write things like 'he said', only the dialogue (the words spoken) between the character and stage directions. There is no need to use speech marks or state who was speaking either, but all other punctuation remains the same.

Watch the following video clip tell the well-known fairy tale, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears':

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oaw-d3r_glc

Now have a go writing the following as stage directions using the present tense:

1. Goldilocks opened the door slowly and cautiously stepped inside. As she looked around, she realized nobody was home.

[Goldilocks opens the door slowly and cautiously steps inside. As she looks around, she realizes nobody is home.]

2. Goldilocks saw three bowls on the kitchen table as her stomach rumbled.

[Goldilocks sees three bowls on the kitchen table as her stomach rumbles.]

3. Eagerly, she sat down at the table in front of Papa Bear's bowl.

Eagerly, she sits down at the table in front of Papa Bear's bowl.

IP

Your task is to continue the playscript by first writing the dialogue spoken in the scene below. Then, you need to 'show' the reader what Goldilocks was feeling/thinking through the stage directions given. Appeal to the senses and focus on how body language (movement) can express emotions: the face, eyes, mouth, hair, skin, heartbeat, sweat, breath, etc.



Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Scene 1

Characters: Goldilocks, Papa Bear, Mama Bear, Baby Bear

[Goldilocks is alone in the forest playing and gathering a bouquet of flowers. She chases a butterfly down a path into a wood clearing with a cozy cottage. Goldilocks skips up to the door and knocks loudly three times.]

Goldilocks: (calls out curiously) Hello?! Helloooo?! Is there anybody home?!!

[No answer. Goldilocks tries the door and it is unlocked. She enters the house slowly while looking around. She sees three bowls on the kitchen table as her stomach rumbles and sits down in front of Papa Bear's bowl.]

Goldilocks: (takes spoonful of porridge, wincing) This porridge is too hot!

[Pushes the bowl away to the center of the table. She moves to Mama Bear's chair and takes a spoonful of her porridge.]

Goldilocks: (shakes head) This porridge is too cold!

[Pushes the bowl away to the center of the table again. She moves to Baby Bear's chair and takes a spoonful of his porridge.]

Goldilocks: (grins) This porridge is just right!!!

[Goldilocks eats all of Baby Bear's porridge quickly.]