

Writing a

# Play Script



twinkl



## Learning Question:

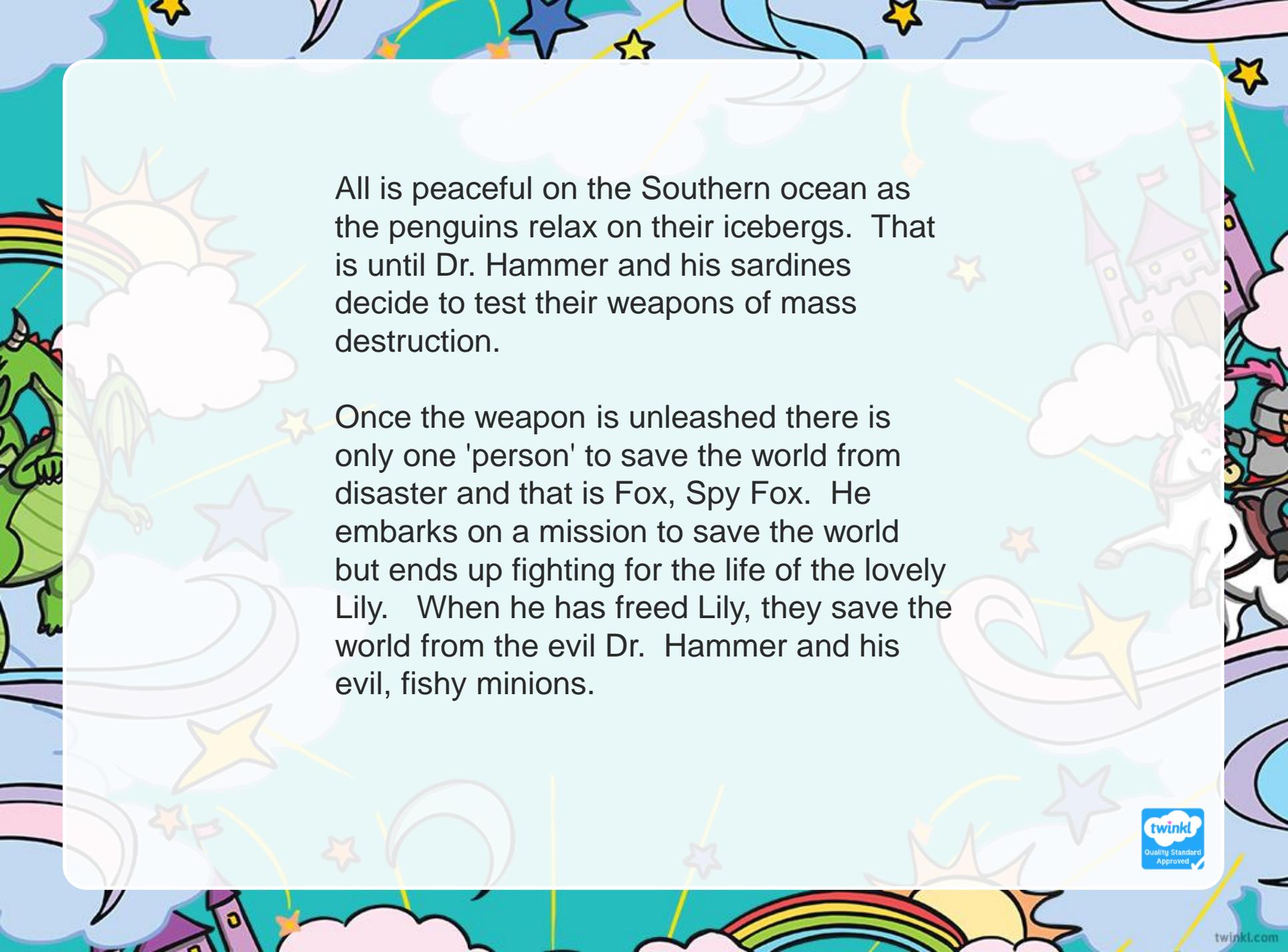
LQ: Can I write a play script based on a video clip

## Success Criteria:

- I can read the slides and understand how to write a playscript.
- I can listen to the video clip 'Spy Fox' and understand the story being told.
- I can brainstorm the key characters of Fox and Dr Hammer

<https://www.literacyshed.com/spyfox.html>





All is peaceful on the Southern ocean as the penguins relax on their icebergs. That is until Dr. Hammer and his sardines decide to test their weapons of mass destruction.

Once the weapon is unleashed there is only one 'person' to save the world from disaster and that is Fox, Spy Fox. He embarks on a mission to save the world but ends up fighting for the life of the lovely Lily. When he has freed Lily, they save the world from the evil Dr. Hammer and his evil, fishy minions.

# Characters

Play scripts usually begin with a list of characters and a little bit of information about each one.

Before you begin writing your play script, you will need to think about who your characters are.

Here is an example of a character list.

## Characters

**Maria** – an animal-loving young girl with few human friends.

**Mrs Sipsmith** – Maria's teacher, who's a strict disciplinarian.

**Mr Woods** – Maria's father, who's a dishonest bank manager.

**Mrs Woods** – Maria's mother, who hates animals but likes quiz shows and celebrity magazines.



# Scenes

Where is the play set?

Plays are divided into sections called scenes. Each scene may have a different setting.

A description of the setting is included at the start of each scene.

**Take a look at this setting description.**

## **Scene 1: The Woods' Living Room**

*Mr and Mrs Woods are sprawled on the sofa, staring at the TV. Maria is on the floor, playing with her pet kitten.*



# Narrators



Narrators tell the audience what is happening in the story. Many play scripts have narrators.

They do not act and often speak at the beginning of a new scene.

Lets have a look at an example

## Scene 1: The Woods' Living Room

*Mr and Mrs Woods are sprawled on the sofa, staring at the TV. Maria is on the floor, playing with her pet kitten.*

**Narrator:** Maria's parents rarely spoke to her. No wonder her only friends were animals. Here they are on a typical Saturday afternoon.

# Dialogue

Remember, inverted commas are not used in a play script.



When writing dialogue, the character name comes first, followed by a colon and what the character says.

Now that you have decided on characters and where your story is set, you can start writing your play script.

Think about what your characters will say to each other.

**Maria:** Here kitty, catch this.

**Mrs Woods:** Shut that cat up! I'm trying to watch my quiz show.

**Maria:** Sorry, Mum.

**Mr Woods:** Shh!

# Stage Directions

Stage directions tell an actor what to do or how to speak. They are written in the present tense.

**Actors do not read stage directions aloud.**



Stage directions can be added in brackets when writing dialogue.

**Maria:** Here kitty, catch this.  
(She throws a ball of wool for the kitten, who leaps on it with a loud meow)

**Mrs Woods:** (crossly) Shut that cat up! I'm trying to watch my quiz show.

**Maria:** Sorry, Mum.

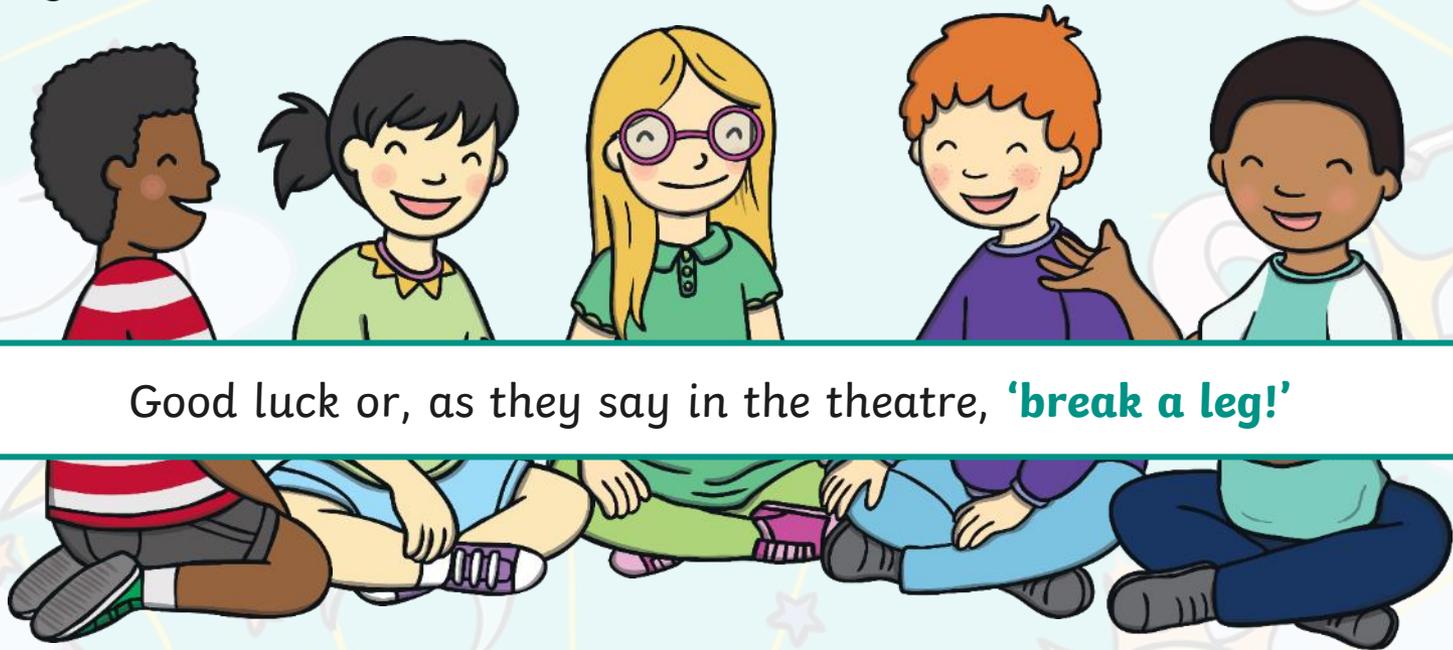
**Mr Woods:** Shh! (loudly, turning the TV volume up even more

# Writing Your Play Script

Now you are ready to write your own play script.

## Remember to include:

- a list of the characters;
- narrators (optional);
- a scene description;
- dialogue;
- stage directions in brackets.



Good luck or, as they say in the theatre, **'break a leg!'**



twinkl