

# PLAYWRITING TIPS & FAQs

## What is a play?

A play is a type of story that is performed live in front of an audience on an indoor or outdoor stage. Plays can be funny, dramatic, full of music, and feature many people or sometimes just one person.

## Why does the writing on the page look different than in a book?

A play is meant to be read aloud. In a script, you will see a character's name followed by the line that they say. Like a movie, the story moves forward based on things people say, rather than through long descriptions that you might find in a novel. In some places in a script you will see descriptions to indicate where the characters are, or actions that happen without words. These are called stage directions and communicate important information for the actor and the audience.

## How do I write a play? I've never done this before!

No problem! You get to decide what the characters say to each other. If you can, read the play with your friends or family so that you can get a sense of all the different characters. Then, work together in a group, or by yourself, to write out what the characters say to each other as they solve the mystery of MISADVENTURE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE. Keep the lines you give each character short and simple, and have fun. Remember - anything can happen and there is no right way or wrong way to write a play!

## I don't really enjoy writing ... Can I still participate?

Absolutely! Theatre is all about teamwork. A play you see on stage includes the work of writers, directors, actors, set designers, costume designers, stage managers, lighting designers, sound designers, and many others! Check out our activity pages to draw pictures, create a scavenger hunt, or get started on a project of your own creation.

## How do I submit my ending/artwork? Do I have to?

You do not need to submit your ending to MISADVENTURE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE or any of your artwork, unless you would like to! There will be an online play reading on **August 18 at 2PM** on the BCSRC YouTube page with professional actors reading the original ending to MISADVENTURE AT THE LIGHTHOUSE as well as a few selected submissions. Artwork will also be featured, and everyone is welcome to tune in! Because of time limits, we won't be able to showcase all submissions, but we thank everyone who chooses to share their work!

**Visit BCSRC.CA or ask your local library for details  
about how to submit your work by July 26!**

