

# PLAY SCRIPTS

## Our Day Out by Willy Russell

### What is a play script?

A play script is a piece of writing written for the stage.

- A play script will include a list of characters (at the very beginning)
- Its may be divided into acts which are then divided into scenes
- Each scene will have a description of the setting at the start and then the characters' dialogue
- Dialogue is set out with the character's name on the left, then a colon, then the dialogue (without speech marks)
- Stage directions for the actors are written every now and again in italics and brackets

### Our Day Out:

Two of the main characters are Mrs Kay and Mr Briggs. Keep a mind map of the two characters that show their differences and similarities. You can keep adding to this as you get to know more about them.

What are the names of some of the students and how would you describe them?

### Who was Willy Russell?

Research the author – what other famous works did he complete?

### Key Vocabulary

**Act/Scene** – an act is a division or unit of theatre work, including a play, film, opera and musical theatre . . . A scene is a part of an act defined with the changing of characters.

**Characters** – people acting in a play script

**Setting** – is the time and place (or when and where) of the story

**Narrator** – some scripts include a character called a narrator. These are characters who explain what is going on in the story for the benefit of the audience. They do not have to be a character in the story, but their lines are written in the same way as any other character's

**Audience** – the people who watch the performance; those for whom the performance is intended

**Dialogue** – this refers to the words that will be spoken by the actors

**Informal Language** – allows the use of non-standard English forms, colloquial vocabulary and typically shorter sentence structures

### This is an extract from the opening of the play: how does it help us understand what life might have been like in 70s inner-city Liverpool?

The street is in the inner-city of Liverpool. Kids are streaming in one direction. It is approaching 9am. The kids are pushing, shoving, rushing, ambling, leering and jeering. A group of older kids cross the road, ignoring the lollipop man's assistance. He points them out to a passing woman, obviously disgusted. Carol rushes along the street wearing a school uniform which doubles as a street outfit and her Sunday best. She is eating half a sandwich and clutching a supermarket carrier bag. She arrives at the roadside and, as there isn't a vehicle in sight, goes to cross without bothering to enlist the aid of the lollipop man, Les. He stops her from stepping off the pavement.

**Challenge:** Find out information about 70s life in the inner city of any large UK city

How are the school/teachers/students portrayed in the play and how is this different to today?