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# **Plays**

A play is a work of drama, usually consisting mostly of dialogue between characters, along with stage directions, and is intended for theatrical performance rather than just reading.

We approach a written play the same way we approach other genres of ebooks. We are reformatting the written version, not creating a dramatization of the play. There are other services that do this for people with print disabilities.

For the most part, we approach plays the same way we approach other books.

### **Character List**

Plays sometimes have Character and/or Cast List.

These should be formatted as an unordered list. This goes for any other list types within a play.

To learn more see the Unordered List Section.

### **Dialogue**

In a play dialogue is often presented with the Character's name before the dialogue.

Vladimir: I want to know how to format dialogue

**Estragon**: It is actually easier to do that you would think!

Apply the Strong style to the Character name, and leave the dialogue in Normal style.

See **Bold** for more information

## **Stage Directions**

The stage directions are normally marked as normal text.

#### **Q&A Archive**

Q: I'm currently working on "Teenage Idol, Travelin' Man" and in the book they will quote scenes from a stage act, see attached image. I would like to check what the most accessible way to format these

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sections would be. Presently, I am thinking that the text should be formatted similar to a play with the names in strong style and want to confirm whether I can also apply the quote style without reducing accessibility?

had a weakness for wordy titles ("I'm Looking for a Guy who Plays Alto and Baritone and Doubles on a Clarinet and Wears a Size 37 Suit") and coy humor. The couple developed a natural onstage rapport and incorporated comical, lyrical banter into the tunes, such as this exchange from "As Long as You're Not in Love With Anyone Else, Why Don't You Fall in Love With OZZIE: Would you like to go out on Friday? I've got tickets for the fight. HARRIET: Oh, I'm getting married Friday; how about Saturday night? OZZIE: You know, I can tell at a glance that I'm using the wrong approach. I'm not being taken seriously. HARRIET: Oh, you're being taken all right, only you don't know It was to be the basis of their comedy for the next forty years; Ozzie playing the earnest, perplexed foil, and Harriet the relentless but always playful tease.

A: You can format it as a quote and play.

Q: I have three questions about Et si un soir, a French play. The first is that there is no colon or mdash to separate speaker from text/direction. Instead, the book is formatted with the speaker on a different line than the text (ie, the separator is a paragraph tag). Is it okay to leave it like this (will the STRONG style applied to the speaker name be enough to guide the reader)?

Second, there are monologue chunks with double paragraphs between them. Should I remove the extra paragraph tags (ie, have all the monologue chunks chunked together) or should I add a line separator? Thanks!

Je suis devant un grand trou noir Je cligne des yeux le suis à l'intérieur du trou Je gueule pour faire entendre ma voix et le clime des veux I. JE CLIGNE DES YEUX Écrasée par le poids de mes histoires Je cligne des yeux Temant ses souliers dans ses mains Je suis couverte de mouss Des racines me percent la poitrine Ma langue coule comme u le ferme mes lèvres autour de la nuit Qui se déverse partout sur le trottoir Je cligne des yeux Je suis pieds nus sur l'asphalte chaude fais du surplace pendant qu'autour de moi Couchée dans le lit d'un inconnu Les immeubles dansent en alow motion Qui m'attire pas particulièrement Un taxi passe à côté de moi et soulève ma jupe et Mais je me laisse quand même avaler Je porte plus de bobettes Par la chaleur de ses bras ii une envie de rire comme une envie de pisser ou Je cligne des yeux C'est peut-être le contraire Je dégrise dans le salon du voisin Je sais plus Qui habite dans la bâtisse d'en face Parce que j'ai encore perdu mes clés Je fais tout pour reconstruire ma nuit mais

Lastly, "un temps" is a stage direction styled in italics and meant to indicate a pause. As established, we're supposed to format stage directions as plain text. However, in this case, I'm wondering if that will create confusion for the reader because each line is so short. Thoughts?

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### **A**NITA

# La porte se ferme

### DANIELLE

Et avec chaque son de clochette Un ange reçoit pas ses ailes

### ANITA

Les gens entrent et sortent Laissant sur les tables Plus de miettes que de pourboire

### **DANIELLE**

Celle qui a pas d'argent A les paroles amères

**A**NITA

Ou la mer à ses pieds

Un temps

Anita et Danielle

Parce que ce soir il pleut

# Anita¶

Les gens entrent et sortent¶

Laissant sur les tables¶

Plus de miettes que de pourboire¶

## Danielle¶

Celle qui a pas d'argent¶

A les paroles amères

Anita¶

Ou la mer à ses pieds

Un temps¶

Anita et Danielle¶

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A: For the character names. Style them in bold followed by a colon. Always remove extra paragraph tags. They cause accessibility issues. As this book has dialogue written like poetry, it is okay to keep the emphasis style. Reformat the stage directions that are on multiple lines to be separated by periods. For example, the first stage direction would become: *Joseph.Devant son écran d'ordinateur. À l'autre bout de la connexion se trouve une femme. Elle porte un masque d'oiseau hideux.* 

Q: I'm working on Le Drap Blanc by Céline Huyghebaert. There is a cast ("personnages") of "characters" listed two pages prior to the "scene" in which they are featured. "Personnages" is not listed in the table of contents and therefore does not strike me as text that should be H1. However, if I make it H2, it'll be a heading under the previous section, not the section to which it is relevant (again, because that section comes two pages LATER).

Should I just do an H2 anyway?

Scène i

PHILIPPE, CÉLINE

Ils se sont donné rendez-vous sur le parking d'un supermarché, à quelques pas de l'appartement de la mère. C'est lui qui la voit le premier. Il lui fait un grand signe de la main en sortant de sa voiture.

PHILIPPE, de loin — Qu'est-ce que tu ressembles à la petitel Je croyais que c'était elle.

Il ne dit pas « ta petite sœur ». Il dit « la petite ». Et le terme affectueux insiste sur la distance qui sépare Céline du reste de sa famille. Le temps, l'exil ont fait d'elle « celle qui ressemble à la petite ».

CÉLINE — Il paraît, oui. On se ressemble.

Elle lui demande si elle peut le tutoyer.

PHILIPPE — Bah oui, t'es comme ma fille. Je t'ai presque vue naître.

Il la prend dans ses bras tatoués d'ancres et de prénoms bleu délavé. Elle sourit. Elle cache sous ses sourires et ses bonnes manières ce qui en elle ressemble à cet homme.

PHILIPPE — Ma fille habite juste là, dans les nids d'abeilles. Mais je ne viens pas souvent. Je vis à Pontchartrain, maintenant. Entre le Sud et Pontchartrain.

CÉLINE - C'est plus beau, Pontchartrain?

PHILIPPE — C'est pas ça.

CÉLINE — C'est les mauvais souvenirs?

PHILIPPE - Oui. Je ne peux plus, ici.

CÉLINE — Qu'est-ce que tu ne peux plus supporter, ici?



A: Always follow the rule of hierarchy with headings. See <u>Understanding Styles & Headings</u> for more. Sometimes we create headings that are not in the original document as it makes it more accessible for navigation. Headings are the most important part of navigation to create an accessible version of a book. Apply H1 to the heading. This is also a play segment. See <u>Plays</u> for more info.

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