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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.

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## Q&A Archive

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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

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 Me":

OSZIE: 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?  
 OSZIE: 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.

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 m-dash 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!

<p><b>I. JE CLIGNE DES YEUX</b></p> <p>Mia</p> <p><i>Tenant ses souliers dans ses mains</i></p> <p>Mia</p> <p>Je ferme mes lèvres autour de la nuit      Et la musique dans ma tête s'arrête      Je suis pieds nus sur l'asphalte chaude      Je fais du surfplace pendant qu'autour de moi      Les immeubles dansent en slow motion      Un taxi passe à côté de moi et soulève ma jupe et      Je porte plus de bobettes      J'ai une envie de rire comme une envie de pisser ou      C'est peut-être le contraire      Je sais plus</p> <p>Je fais tout pour reconstruire ma nuit mais</p>	<p>Je suis devant un grand trou noir</p> <p>Je cligne des yeux      Je suis à l'intérieur du trou      Je gueule pour faire entendre ma voix et      Je cligne des yeux      Je suis poussières      Écrasée par le poids de mes histoires      Et de mes habitudes      Je cligne des yeux      Je suis couverte de mousse      Des racines me percent la poitrine      Ma langue coule comme une rivière      Qui se déverse partout sur le trottoir      Je cligne des yeux      Je suis une forme sous des couvertures      Couchée dans le lit d'un inconnu      Qui m'attire pas particulièrement      Mais je me laisse quand même avaler      Par la chaleur de ses bras      Je cligne des yeux      Je dégrise dans le salon du voisin      Qui habite dans la bâtisse d'en face      Parce que j'ai encore perdu mes clés</p>
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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?

ANITA

La porte se ferme

DANIELLE

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

ANITA

Les gens entrent et sortent  
Laisant 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

Parce que ce soir il pleut

**Anita** ¶

Les gens entrent et sortent ¶  
Laisant 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** ¶

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.*

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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 1

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 petite! 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 naitre.

*Il la prend dans ses bras tatoués d'ancre 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 [Understanding Styles & Headings](#) 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 [Plays](#) for more info.

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Q: In the play "Crippled," there are no individual scenes or acts, nor is there currently a header/title marking where the play itself begins. Assuming I should make my own header for navigation purposes, should I just use the title of the play? And should I make note of this in the "About this Digital Book" section?

A: You can enter the heading Play in Heading level 1 before the play. In the About this digital book section you can simply state: Level 1 indicates top level, section headings.

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