S — Before the curtain

Read dialogue and bracketed cues. No acting, darkness, props or performance is needed.

S1. [A rehearsal room. A cardboard moon rests against a chair. Two fictional makers, Kit and Sal, check a short puppet scene.]

S2. KIT: The moon should rise when the traveller reaches the hill.

S3. SAL: It could rise after. Give the traveller a moment in the dark.

S4. KIT: We practised the first way.

S5. [Sal puts a blank cue card beside the finished cards.]

S6. SAL: A pause can be a choice too.

S7. KIT: Or it can look as if we forgot.

S8. [Kit reaches for the blank card, then stops.]

S9. KIT: What would the traveller do while we wait?

S10. SAL: Look for the hill. Find it without the moon.

S11. [Kit turns the card sideways and writes WAIT.]

S12. KIT: Let's try your pause. Then mine. We can keep the one that fits.

S13. SAL: The traveller gets two chances.

S14. [They lay the two cue sequences side by side. The curtain remains closed.]

What do Kit and Sal want? Where would you put the pause?

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