



English

Wonder – Chekhov’s Gun

Chekhov's Gun



Who is Anton Chekhov?

Anton Chekhov was a famous Russian playwright and short story writer.

He wrote plays such as

- The Seagull
- The Cherry Orchard
- The Three Sisters
- Short stories such as The Lady with the Dog.



The Pistol



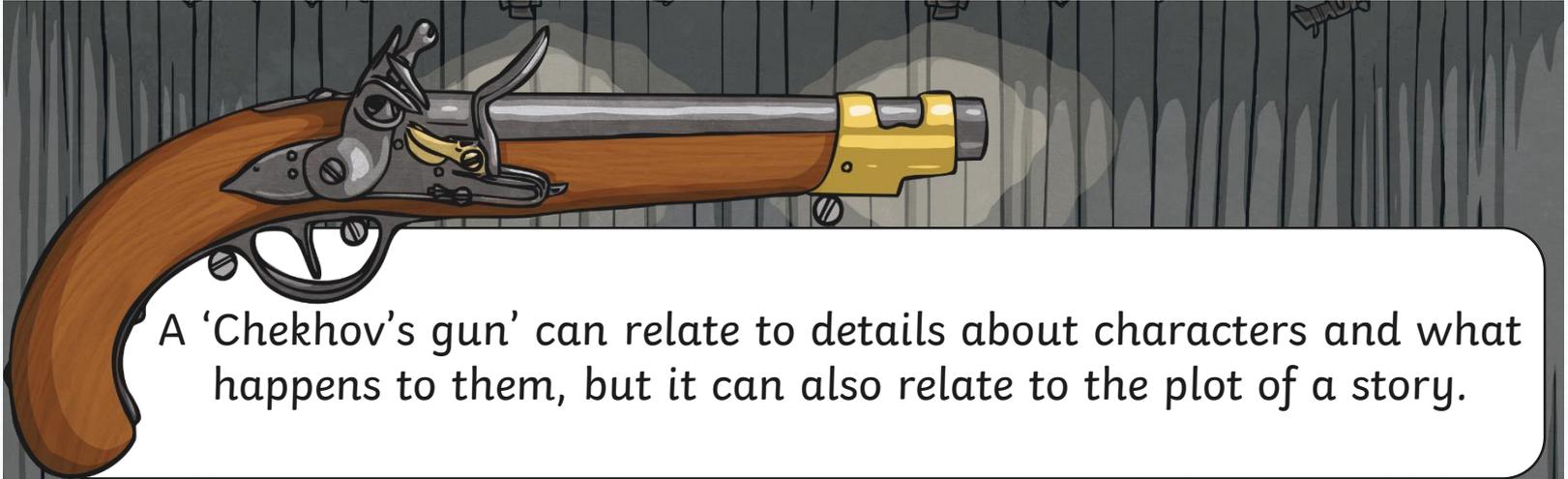
If in Act 1 you have a pistol hanging on the wall, then it must fire in the last act.

irrelevant to the telling of that story.

The Pistol



The Plot



A 'Chekhov's gun' can relate to details about characters and what happens to them, but it can also relate to the plot of a story.

We know that Chekhov was ill and was a doctor, so we could deduce that the liquid in the glass might be medicine.

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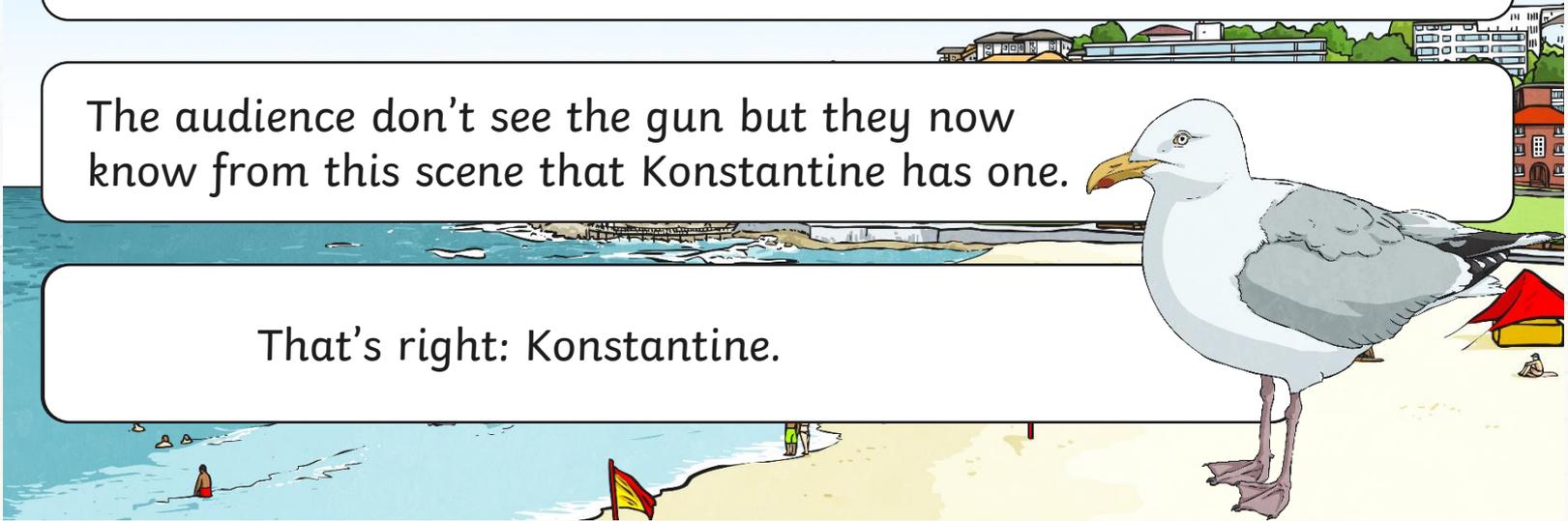
The Seagull

In Chekhov's play, 'The Seagull', two characters spot a dead seagull.

One of them says that the main character, Konstantine, has shot it.

The audience don't see the gun but they now know from this scene that Konstantine has one.

That's right: Konstantine.



Can You Spot the 'Chekhov's Gun'?

Why not watch a familiar film or read through a story you know well and try to spot the 'Chekhov's guns'?

Can you see how the writer has included them towards the beginning of the story?

When you next write a story or script, remember to include your own 'Chekhov's guns' so that there are no unplanned surprises for your reader or audience.



Special Powers

When you're writing a script or story about superheroes and you describe a special power they possess...

...or you need to show what kind of

...make sure that they use that special power later in the story.

...make sure you have introduced that detail beforehand so that it doesn't come as a surprise to your reader or audience!

