

GCSE Drama Skills – Knowledge Organiser

Drama	The term "drama" comes from a Greek word meaning "action", which is derived from "I do". The two masks associated with drama represent the traditional generic division between comedy and tragedy.
Improvisation	Improvisation is a powerful tool for both exploring and creating a script. To improvise is to simply invent or make it up as you go along. Improvisation can be divided into two types.
Spontaneous improvisation	All improvisation is spontaneous to a degree, in that it's not scripted. But this style of improvisation means that there has been no discussion or planning about what that scene may contain. The actors act and react to one another in role and 'see what happens'. Often really interesting work arises, particularly in rehearsal. Not all of it may be useful or relevant but working in this way can generate ideas and dialogue worth keeping.
Rehearsed improvisation	Rehearsed improvisation This is the next step. Actors have experimented with creating spontaneous work and the best bits have been kept and tidied up to create a piece of work which, although improvised, is planned and polished.
Monologue	A monologue is a speech by one character that can be heard by all present.
Soliloquy	A soliloquy is a speech by one person that is not intended to be heard by other actors in the play.
Cross-cutting	Cross-cutting is when we chop up the order of a play and reassemble it in a new order.
Wheel of emotions	Robert Plutchik was a psychologist who developed a psycho evolutionary theory of emotion. Plutchik created the wheel of emotions in order to illustrate the various relationships among the emotions. The intensity of emotion decreases as you move outward and increases as you move toward the wheel's centre. The intensity of the emotion is indicated by the colour. The darker the shade, the more intense the emotion. For example, anger at its least level of intensity is annoyance. At its highest level of intensity, anger becomes rage.
Chorus	The role of the chorus in drama is much like the role of the narrator of a novel or story. The chorus provides some structure to the narrative and can provide information and commentary that need not be in the actors' lines. The chorus can also provide foreshadowing or humour.
Prologue	Prologue comes from the Greek term prologos, which means "before word," is an opening of a story that establishes the setting, and gives background details. Generally speaking, the main function of a prologue tells some earlier story, and connects it to the main story.
Multi-role	Multi-role is when an actor plays more than one character onstage. The differences in character are marked by changing voice, movement, gesture and body language but the audience can clearly see that the same actor has taken on more than one role.
Symbolism	A symbol implies a greater meaning than the literal suggestion and is usually used to represent something other than what it is at face value. Symbolism in the theatre can be achieved via characters, colour, movement, costume and props.

