

Teechers - Knowledge Organiser

Plot

Teechers is a play within a play.

Three year 11 students put on a performance for their teachers. School leavers, Salty, Hobby and Gail Saunders perform an account of their time in High School (given the name 'Whitewall' for their performance).

They were particularly inspired by their time with Mr. Jeff Nixon, the new drama teacher who ignited their passion for the stage with his idealism and belief that all children should be treated equally.

At the end of the play 'Mr. Nixon' leaves Whitewall High School to teach at St George's, another school with a much better reputation.

Style of Acting

- Actors play multiple roles
- Direct address to the audience
- Social commentary veiled in humour
- Quick paced scenes
- Episodic structure
- Frequent changes of direction
- Use of different styles of text
- Colloquial language
- Exaggerated

Main Characters

Gail Saunders Loud mouthed, bossy and full of enthusiasm

Lilian "Hobby" Hobson - always caught eating and missing PE

Ian "Salty" Salt A school-leaver, bright and fresh-faced, rather dirty in appearance

Mr Nixon - The drama teacher, socialist and idealistic fancies Jackie Prime

Mrs Parry - The Headteacher loves all students and is wanting the best from them.

Ms Maureen Whitham - A fussy teacher, desperate to leave.

Bobby "Oggy" Moxon - The school bully in a modern age

Peter "Pete" Saxon - A large, frightening youth with tattoos, appears foolish.

Mr Derek Basford - The Deputy Head

Miss Jackie Prime (later Short) - PE Teacher

Social/Cultural & Historical Context

- Written in 1980's and it retains political and social relevance. Mainly concerning educational issues linked to the Thatcher years of power.
- Education changed control for LEAs to government and Whitehall - hence the name of the school as Whitehall; thus, a pun on the changes within education.
- National Curriculum was introduced in 1988 Education Reform Act.
- League tables introduced.
- Many teachers opposed the changes, and campaigned against the low pay, working conditions, and lack of morale within the industry. Over the past few years there have also been a significant number of changes to the education system resulting in similar problems.
- In Teechers Mr. Nixon argues with Mr. Basford (The Deputy Head) about the fairness of private education.
- Mr. Nixon believes that all children should have access to the best possible education, and that this should not be reserved for those who can afford it.
- John Godber has written this play to question the morality of any child not being given a good education and fairness to equality within the class system.

