

WHAT IS DRAMA?- KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Skills	Definition
Levels	Used to make the performance more interesting. Levels can be used to suggest status - meaning the power or authority one character has over another.
Gestures	Used to show how a character feels or expresses their thoughts.
Facial expressions	Shows a character's response to a situation or reveals their inner feelings and thoughts
Vocal skills	Pitch, pace, tone, accent, volume
Body language	The way a performer communicates non-verbally

Drama conventions	Definition
Flashback	Flashbacks or Flash Forwards creates a context - it shows what led up to a particular moment, how it might be resolved or how it may lead onto additional challenges. The technique helps to flesh out a dramatic moment or create the beginnings of a story.
Still image	This is a frozen picture which communicates meaning. It's sometimes called a freeze frame or tableau. It can provide insight into character relationships with a clear focus upon use of space, levels, body language and facial expression.
Thought tracking	A thought-track is when a character steps out of a scene to address the audience about how they're feeling. ... Sometimes the character might feel something different to the words they're speaking. This is called subtext and thought-tracking is a useful way of exploring it to realise the many layers within a scene.
Narration	Narrating is adding a spoken commentary for the audience about the action onstage. A narrator is like a storyteller informing the audience about the plot. ... Narrating can make a drama more understandable or stylised in a number of ways: an actor can speak the commentary over the action happening in the drama.
Cross-cutting	Cross-cutting is a device to move between two or more scenes staged in the space at the same time. It's important that the audience know which part of the action they should follow so one part of the action remains in still image while another scene is played out, directing the audience's focus.