

GCSE Drama Skills - Learning Journey

This scheme of work looks at strategies for studying drama skills that students will find useful for exploring and creating Drama throughout KS4. This unit of work will give you a foundation of skills to build on and explore throughout your GCSE Drama course.

Session 1 - Tableaux

Session 2 - Role play

Session 3- The Ventriloquist

Session 4 - A short play

Session 5 - Physical Theatre

Session 6 - Lighting, sound & costume

Session 7 Rehearsal and development

Session 8 - GCSE Drama Skills Assessment

By the end of this term, students will have learnt:

To explore drama through a variety of starting points.

To demonstrate an understanding of drama strategies and skills.

To know and understand lighting colours.

To demonstrate skills through an improvised play

To understand and demonstrate how to develop own and others' work

To assess own work and work of others.



How will I know how to perform in a successful way?

Successful skills will be modelled by your teacher and peers. You will also reflect and evaluate your work and the work of others' to improve further.

How will I practice working creatively?

You will work in a number of groups each lessons using the dramatic strategies as a starting point to create a successful devising piece.

How will I be assessed?

You will work in groups to rehearse and perform a piece of drama, showcasing the skills and strategies you have developed this term to create a successful performance. You will be assessed using the GCSE Devising: Performance Assessment criteria.

tableau (n)

In a tableau, participants make still images with their bodies to represent a scene.

chorus (n)

A chorus is a group of actors who describe and comment on the main action during a play.

Used in Greek theatre, the chorus can respond using speech, sound, dance, song and music.

Multi-role

Multi-roling is when an actor plays more than one character onstage.

vocal skills (n)

Vocal skills include clarity of diction, inflection, accent, intonation and phrasing; pace, pause and timing; projection, pitch;

physical theatre (n)

is a type of performance where physical movement is the primary method of storytelling. It may incorporate other techniques such as mime, gesture and modern dance to create performance pieces.

physical skills (n)

Physical skills include: body language, gesture, facial expressions, pace, quality of movement and space.

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.

