



Drama Knowledge Organiser: Year 7 Unit 1 – Building a Character



Drama Techniques to assist in Building a Character		Performance Skills	
Improvisation	Drama with no script. Impressive improvisation skills include Imagination / Quick Thinking / Ability to Go With The Flow.	Facial Expression	The feelings expressed on a person's face.
Still Image	When a group freezes in a position which is like a photograph. An effective still image will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clear body language and facial expression, showing the emotion of your character. ✓ Use of Space (to show how the characters feel about each other). ✓ Good Levels (to show who is the highest status character). ✓ Tension in the body. ✓ Consideration of the audience (performing in the direction of the audience) 	Body Language	The way in which a person communicates using gestures, movements and mannerisms.
Thought Tracking	When a character speaks their thoughts to an audience, that the other characters cannot hear. It can help you explore the motivation of your character, making you ask: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I feel about the situation I am in? • What do I feel about others at this moment? • Why is my character behaving in this way? 	Vocals	The way in which the voice is used to present emotion using Tone (Emotion) / Pitch (High or Low) / Pace (Speed) / Volume (Loud or Quiet) / Accent (Region).
Rehearsed Improvisation	Creating an Improvisation, then rehearsing it to make sure it is polished for performance.	Space:	The area between and around the actors / The theatre space in which the drama takes place.
Spontaneous Improvisation	Creating an improvisation without any preparation (off the top of your head).	Levels	Used to show how high or low status a character is.
Role on the Wall	A method of exploring the thoughts and feelings of a character. Here, you must draw an outline of the role. On the inside you write what the character thinks of themselves. On the outside you write down what others think of your character.	Tension	When the body feels tense / The concept of making the audience want to know what will happen next.
Cliff Hanger	A dramatic and exciting ending, leaving the audience in suspense.	General Terminology	
		Actor	Someone who pretends to be someone else while performing in a film, play, television or radio programme.
		Audience	The spectators or listeners at a public event such as a film, play, concert, television or radio programme.
		Character	A person represented in a film, play or story.
		Dialogue	Speech / Conversation between two or more people.
		Technical Terminology	
		Prop	Objects used on stage or screen by actors during a performance or production.
		Costume	A set of clothes worn by an actor in a particular role.
		Set	Scenery used to identify the location of a scene / play.
		Lighting	The arrangement of theatre lights to achieve specific effects.
		Sound	The sound used to create atmosphere, emphasise what is happening on stage, set the scene, and indicate time or location.