

Y7 Drama Knowledge Organiser

Physical Skills...(Skills that involve using your BODY)

1. Body Language	How an actor uses their body to communicate meaning. For example, crossing your arms could mean you are fed up.
2. Posture	The position an actor holds their body when sitting or standing. For example, an upright posture.
3. Gait	The way an actor walks.
4. Facial Expressions	A form of non-verbal communication that expresses the way you are feeling, using the face.
5. Gestures	A movement of part of the body, especially a hand or the head, to express an idea or meaning.
6. Stance	The way you position yourself when standing to communicate your role. An elderly person would have a different stance to a child!

Vocal Skills...(Skills that involve using your VOICE)

1. Projection	Ensuring your voice is loud and clear for the audience to hear.
2. Volume	How loudly or quietly you say something. (Shouting, whispering)
3. Tone	The way you say something in order to communicate your emotions. (E.g. Angry, worried, shocked tone of voice)
4. Pace	The speed of what you say.
5. Pause	Moments of pause can create tension, or show that you are thinking.
6. Accent	Use of an accent tells the audience where your character is from.
7. Pitch	How high or low your voice is.
8. Emphasis	Changing the way a word or part of a sentence is said, in order to emphasise it. (Make it stand out.) Try emphasising the words in capital letters and see how it changes the meaning: "How could YOU do that?" "How could you do THAT?"

STYLES OF PERFORMANCE: Naturalism v Non-Naturalism

Naturalism = A style of drama that aims to create the illusion of real life. It should come across as completely believable to the audience.

Non-Naturalism = A style of performance that uses a range of dramatic conventions, such as still images or monologue. In real life, these conventions don't happen, which is why they make the drama 'non-naturalistic'. You can also use a mixture of both styles! You could create a piece of drama where some scenes are naturalistic, and others make use of drama conventions.

Drama Conventions

1. **Narration:** The person who helps to tell the story or moral of the piece.
2. **Direct Address:** When you speak directly to the audience 'in role'.
3. **Thought-Track:** When you speak your characters thoughts/feelings out loud, usually during a still image.
4. **Still Image:** Where every person on the stage freezes - as if you could take a photograph.
5. **Physical Theatre:** Using your body to create settings and objects.
6. **Split Screen:** When the stage is divided in half in order to show a contrast between two different scenes. Usually the action on one side will freeze, as the other plays out.
7. **Vocal Montage:** When the actors say words/phrases and begin to build in volume to create a certain atmosphere.
8. **Improvisation:** When you act out/create a scene on the spot or with limited planning, without a script

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TOP TIPS FOR CREATING:

- ✓ Be co-operative! (Take part and follow the instructions of your team members)
- ✓ Listen respectfully to others' ideas
- ✓ Share your own ideas and make contributions
- ✓ Stay in your working space
- ✓ Plan your time effectively and structure your rehearsal
- ✓ Think about where your audience will be and rehearse with this in mind
- ✓ Make sure everyone knows what they are doing
- ✓ Practice your transitions (the moments between a scene change)

TOP TIPS FOR PERFORMING:

- ✓ Perform with confidence - do not be embarrassed!
- ✓ Stay in role at ALL times, even if something goes a bit wrong!
- ✓ Make eye contact with the audience to engage them
- ✓ Project your voice loudly and clearly
- ✓ Use a range of vocal and physical skills to show strong and convincing characterisation!
- ✓ Make sure you are facing the audience, so they can see your facial expressions
- ✓ Don't shuffle about - move with purpose!

Group Roles

Everybody must take part in the performance, however everybody should be responsible for a specific area when creating.

Spokesperson: Be ready to EXPLAIN your group's ideas to the rest of the class, when asked.

Director: LEAD and SUPPORT the team and make sure everyone is involved.

Ideas Generator: DEVELOP the ideas that your group are sharing - DEMONSTRATE your use of drama techniques.

Peer Assessor: EVALUATE your group's work and make decisions on what is working well (WWW) and what could be even better (EBI).

Scribe: MAKE notes of the most relevant points that your group discuss on your planning sheet.

CHALLENGE:

Use BBC Bitesize and other websites to EXPAND your knowledge independently.

Areas of the Stage

Remember: The stage is always from the **actor's** point of view, as they are the ones standing on the stage. Demonstrate good **spatial awareness** by using all areas of the stage, where appropriate.

