

Year 8 – Spring Term

Term	Autumn Term	
Topic	Soap Operas and Melodrama – Murder Mystery Spring Term 1 – Soap Operas Spring Term 2 – Murder Mystery: Cluedo	
Big Question	<u>How can we build tension and dramatic moments to grip the audience?</u>	
Concepts	<p>Cross-cutting Stage fighting Melodramatic acting Split stage Flashbacks / Flashforwards Episodic and linear structure of performances Genre: Comedy and murder mystery Cliff hangers</p>	
Knowledge	<p><i>Recap: Why is a strong characterisation important in performance? How can we achieve realistic characterisation in performance? How can we continue to extend interpretations of character archetypes in performance?</i></p>	
Skills	<p>New knowledge: How to present a snapshot of an open ended narrative to the audience. How to create and convey the real emotions and feelings of life like characters. How to build drama to enhance the effect, such as using pauses, silences, cues and overlapping dialogue to create tension. Being able to experiment with the genre and structure of performance and organise performances with a variation of structure (linear, chronological, episodic) for effect.</p> <p>Develop ability to create a realistic character, based on family stock characters, and themes, as found in a Soap Opera. Develop the awareness of the audience and explore how to compliment the need for sensitive and real topics and themes to be explored. Develop the skill on how to add physical stage fighting to a performance, in a safe way, to convey a physical altercation. Develop success when blocking movement in rehearsal and layering different elements of performance to add depth to the narrative. Develop communication skills when working as a team to listen, share and advise with peers. Develop the ability to end a performance with a cliffhanger to leave the audience gripped.</p>	
Common Misconceptions	<p>You have to play a character to be a successful actor and cannot use your own personal experiences.</p> <p>A performance is always based on one genre and has to be completely exaggerated and dramatic to be successful.</p> <p>A performance has one structural style – chronological.</p> <p>To create a believable character, you have to extreme facial expressions and vocal expression to convey realism.</p>	
Key Vocabulary	Characterisation Melodramatic Open Ended Narrative Continuous storyline Physical Embodiment Expression Gestures Vocality Script work	Duologue Cliffhanger Character Archetypes

<p>Assessment Points</p>	<p>Regular peer and self-reflection when watching the work of others Consistent verbal feedback offered by the teacher on small scenes created in class. <u>Mid unit:</u> Written reflective questions in booklet based on performance created Small performance of a devised Soap Opera, complete with name, characters and a gripping storyline performed to the class. Students will create their own character, as part of a 'stock' family, and will perform a 3 minute insight into their 'episode'. Students perform this as part of a showcase, where each scene has been nominated for a Soap Award – "The best tense and dramatic moment to grip the audience" award.</p> <p><u>End of Unit:</u> Final performance of their own murder mystery, based on Cluedo, complete with set stock characters. In this performance, students will embrace the knowledge and ability to experiment with structure, such as cross cutting, flash forwards, flashbacks etc. They will create a performance based on 5 scenes, where they will introduce characters, develop the narrative and end with a cliff hanger.</p>
<p>Diversity, Inclusion and Personal Development</p>	<p>Soap Operas explore a wealth of realistic characters from different backgrounds; students are exposed and encouraged to play different genders, characters of different ethnicities and religious beliefs. Due to the nature of performance, students will watch clips of different Soap Operas and will look at how Soap Operas have changed over time, focusing on one of the longest running soaps – Eastenders, compared to a very modern day teenage version – Hollyoaks. In the Murder Mystery: Cluedo unit, students are shown a variety of six stock characters, all with different personality traits and different qualities. Each represents a different personality – confidence, intelligence, militant, hard working but lower class etc, which allows pupils to see a diverse range of characters and choose to experiment with different background and beliefs with a range of moral and intellectual standing.</p>
<p>How parents can be of support</p>	<p>Discussions with pupils on what skills have been explored in lessons. Testing knowledge of key words in the glossary in the assessment booklet to ensure pupils know what they are and why they are used in theatre. Discussions on different Soap Operas, including stock characters, and real life stories, including some controversial ones, that they have watched previously. Sharing awareness of character representation and how characters like heroes, villains and comic timing can be used effectively.</p>
<p>Extra Curricular Links – further/wider reading, TV or film, useful websites etc.</p>	<p><i>Students / parents could do the following to help skills in this unit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Soap Operas at home in own time • Watch YouTube clips of best moments from particular scenes in different Soap Operas • Watch video clips of stage combat, including stage slaps and punches https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g75VVZMeJuA