

Drama. Year 7: Characterisation.
How to further develop and improve performance work 1

Working with a Director

1. Watch this clip (5 mins): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/drama-gcse-working-with-a-director/zkt8qp3>
2. Think about the story of Red Riding Hood, and the moment where she has arrived at her Grandma's house and discovers the strange looking 'Grandma' (the wolf in disguise) in her bed...
You are a theatre director, and you need to direct your actors about how you would like them to act for this moment. Below is a short script extract of this moment. You can annotate (label) the script extract below in a different colour with PHYSICAL and VOCAL ideas for your actors, plus any other creative ideas you may have. You will need to make notes on how you would like them to move and deliver the lines, and how they interact. Also, how are you going to direct the dramatic moment where the wolf eats Red Riding Hood?!

Extension idea: You can do a sketch to show your set ideas and where you'd place the actors in the space. You can label items of set/props.

Here are my ideas in red:

(Red Riding Hood standing nervously in the doorway, clutching her basket.
Wolf is sitting in the bed with the covers pulled right up to his nose, peering out menacingly)

Red Riding Hood: Oh Granny! (shocked tone of voice, taking a step forward, frowning) What big eyes you have!

Wolf: All the better to see you with my dear!

Red Riding Hood: Oh Granny! What big ears you have!

Wolf: All the better to hear you with my dear!

Red Riding Hood: (*trembling*) Oh but Granny, what big teeth you have!

Wolf: (*no longer pretending*) All the better to eat you with! (*The wolf suddenly reveals himself and eats Red Riding Hood*)

Vocal ideas you could include:

- **Pause/silence** - to build tension
- **Tone of voice** - the feeling in your voice e.g. worried/excited/firm/nervous/assertive etc
- **Volume** - e.g. loud/soft/whisper

- **Pace** - how slowly/quickly you speak e.g. fast, slow, controlled, stilted
- **Emphasis** - any words you want to stand out/emphasise for impact?
- **Pitch** -E.g. high, low, husky, deep, whiny, grating
- **Accent** - do any of the characters have an accent?
- **Projection** -

Physical ideas you could include:

- **Facial expressions** - think about eyebrows (e.g. raised, furrowed), mouth (e.g. biting their lip, clenched), eyes (e.g. wide, glaring, suspicious, hopeful)
- **Gestures** - what are their hands doing?
- **Body language/movement**
- **Posture** - e.g. upright, slouched, relaxed?
- **Eye contact/it's withdrawal**
- **Mannerisms** - a habitual gesture or way of speaking unique to someone. E.g. if you always twirl your hair when nervous
- **Gait** (a person's 'gait' describes the way they walk e.g. rushed, purposeful, hasty)
- **Tension / contact /stillness / proxemics**