

YEAR 11 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER - AUTUMN 2

TEXTS IN PERFORMANCE

KEY TERMINOLOGY

1	Playwright				The person who writes the play. A playwright's work is copyrighted. This means it must be performed as written. We are not allowed to change any of the words or make cuts to his or her script.
2	Duologue				Just as a monologue is a speech for one person, a duologue is a scene involving just two actors.
3	Given Circumstances				The information the playwright gives us about a scene or character. For example: 'The scene begins in Kate's bedroom. It is 9 o'clock'.
4	Blocking				Deciding on when and where actors move on stage. Blocking is usually done by a director but when there is no director, the actors make these important decisions.
5	Naturalism				An acting style that aims to be as realistic as possible and appealing to the emotions. An example would be soap opera.
6	Stage Directions				Information in a script that tells the actor what to do or how to say a certain line. For example, Peter enters and puts his bag down.
7	Motivation				What makes your character behave the way that they do. Their needs and desires in the play.
8	Fourth Wall				The imaginary wall that exists between the actors on stage and the audience.
9	Actioning				A technique which uses action words or adverbials, to add depth and meaning to an actor's lines.
10	Choral Speech				When a group of actors speak a line at the same time to create dramatic effect. From the Greek word 'Chorus' meaning ensemble.
11	Synchronised Movement				Like choral speech but this technique sees actors using their bodies to move at the same time - in sync.
12	Technical Rehearsal				The penultimate rehearsal where the actors get chance to run their performance with sound and lighting. Costumes are not generally worn at a technical rehearsal.
13	Dress Rehearsal				A final run through of a performance in rehearsal and a chance for actors to say their lines and hit their marks one last time before opening night.
14	Hot Seating				A way of developing character. If you are in the hot-seat you answer questions from others in the group while you are 'in role'.
15	Stereotype				A widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.

EXTEND YOUR LEARNING

Here is some more information about acting in a naturalistic style which will be helpful in creating sincere characters.

[Stanislavsky Acting Method](#)

A short, fact-packed video about Stanislavski's acting methods.

[Stanislavski In 7 Steps](#)

A simple guide showing how to apply Stanislavski's techniques in your practical work.

LANGUAGE OF THE ROLE

PHYSICAL SKILLS.

BODY LANGUAGE

Using your body to communicate how you are feeling or what you are doing.

FACIAL EXPRESSION

Using your face to communicate how you are feeling.

POSTURE

How you sit or stand. E.g. Upright or slouched.

GESTURE

Communicating with your hands. E.g. Raising your palm to show you want someone to stop.

GAIT

How you or your character walks.

LEVELS

Using heights to show status or importance. Someone with little status is usually low down.

VOCAL SKILLS.

PITCH

How high or low we speak.

PACE

How fast or slow we speak.

PAUSE

Putting a gap into our speech, usually to add suspense or tension.

VOLUME

How loud or quiet we speak.

TONE

Putting emotion into our words. E.g. An angry tone, a worried tone, a surprised tone.

EMPHASIS

Underlining a word with our voices. Putting stress on a certain word to make it stand out.