



# Year 8 Knowledge Organiser: John Godber

<b><u>WHO</u></b> John Godber is one of the most performed playwrights in the English language. Born in 1956, he is the son of a mining family who went on to be a drama teacher at the school he went to as a child. He joined Hull Truck theatre Company in 1984 and has since won many prestigious awards for his productions. He has written 17 plays and has directed all of their first performances.	<b><u>Thought Tracking</u></b> Thought tracking is when an actor steps out of the scene/tableau to speak the thoughts of their character to the audience. Thought tracking is an effective way of getting inside a character’s mind. It enables us to see things from a character’s point of view, and to better understand their motives. Often when a character is thought tracking, the other characters on stage freeze, so that the audience’s attention is focused solely on the words being spoken.	<b><u>Conventions</u></b> Drama conventions are a set of techniques that are used to create dramatic effects, further the narrative and keep the audience engaged. <b>Tableau</b> <b>Thought Tracking</b> <b>Soundscape-</b> A collection of sounds used to create atmosphere <b>Flash back-</b> Acting out an event from the past <b>Flash forward-</b> acting out an event from the future <b>Choral speaking-</b> When performers speak at the same time in perfect unison <b>Narration-</b> Part(s) of the story are told as a story by a narrator. <b>Slow motion movement-</b> Movement performed at a slowed down pace. <b>Physical theatre-</b> Using the body to create images
<b><u>WHERE</u></b> Originally from Upton, a working class part of West Yorkshire, Godber has made his place of birth a focal point for his plays. One of his aims is to reflect the lives of the people around him and so his subject matter is often the challenges that working class people face. He aims to appeal to a diverse audience, particularly working class people who traditionally don’t go to the theatre.	<b><u>Transitions</u></b> Transitions are the moments when you are moving from one scene or tableau to another. Rather than walking to their next position the actor keeps the audience entertained by performing the transition. Transitions should be as interesting to watch as the scene or tableaux themselves. They need to be performed in a style that suits the piece and in a disciplined and safe way.	
<b><u>Tableaux</u></b> A tableau is a frozen image or a living photograph performed on stage. A performance can involve more than one tableau – the plural is spelled tableaux but pronounced the same. Tableaux can be used to: Start and finish a performance effectively. Show the audience something that is too difficult to act out eg a fight. Allow the audience to focus on an important moment.	<b><u>Self-Discipline</u></b> Self-Discipline is the ability to control our behaviour and feelings at all times. This can help us prepare for our performances and remain in character when on stage.	
<b><u>Tasks to highlight understanding. Once you have completed a task you should highlight it.</u></b> 1- I can spell and give definitions for all key vocal and physical terms. 2- I am able to spell and give definitions for tableau and tableaux when asked. 3- I can create a character by using my knowledge of voice and physicality. 4- I understand why self-discipline is important in drama and I can show this in my performances. 5- I can explain what a convention is and why they are used in drama.		