



Year 7 knowledge organiser: Drama basics

Vocal terminology
 Volume- How loud or quiet your voice is.
 Pace- How quickly or slowly you speak
 Pitch- How high or low your voice is
 Tone- The way your voice is affected by emotion
 Accent- How your voice is affected by where you come from
 Pause- Putting a break between words
 Emphasis- Putting stress on a word or section

Physical terminology
 Facial Expressions- The way an actor uses their face to show emotion
 Gesture- Communicating using hands and arms
 Gait- The way an actor walks
 Posture- The way an actor sits or stands
 Orientation- The way an actor is facing
 Mime- Acting out an invisible object using your body
 Proxemics- The distance between actors on stage

Tableaux
 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.

Thought Tracking
 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.

Transitions
 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.

Self-Discipline
 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.

Conventions
 Drama conventions are a set of techniques that are used to create dramatic effects, further the narrative and keep the audience engaged.

Tableau
Thought Tracking
Soundscape- A collection of sounds used to create atmosphere

Flash back- Acting out an event from the past

Flash forward- acting out an event from the future

Choral speaking- When performers speak at the same time in perfect unison

Narration- Part(s) of the story are told as a story by a narrator.

Slow motion movement- Movement performed at a slowed down pace.

Physical theatre- Using the body to create images

- Tasks to highlight understanding. Once you have completed a task you should highlight it.**
- 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.