

Year 8 Drama | Term 6

Key Question: How can we use the theme of Murder Mystery to focus on characterisation?

Topic Overview: This term in Drama, students will explore a variety of different characters from a created appropriate Murder Mystery. They will consider the different vocal and physical skills needed in order to differentiate between them. Teacher will model a number of different characters for Hot-Seating activities.

[Assessment Rubric](#) | [Term 6](#)

	Lesson Exploration	Lesson Experience(s)	Knowledge & Skills	Key Words
Week 1: Lesson 1	How can we understand and develop characters?	Students will experience some murder themed drama games before taking part in a hot-seating activity to get to know the key characters for the term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status • Facial Expression • Body Language • Gestures • Tension • Tone of voice SK1: Improvising SK2: Rehearsing SK3: Performing	Tone of voice Pitch Volume Accent Facial expressions Body language Gestures Stance Proxemics Levels Status
Week 2: Lesson 1	How can we portray character personalities and attitudes on stage?	Students will experience creating a freeze-frame of the murder scene before creating short scenes showing the different characters personal links to the victim.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeze-frame • Facial Expression • Body Language • Gestures • Status • Proxemics SK1: Improvising SK2: Rehearsing	Hot-seating Freeze-frame Denouement Tension Red Herring Alibi

			SK3: Performing SK5: Using physical skills to add impact SK8: Analysing the performance of others	
Week 3: Lesson 1	How can we create a sense of suspense for an audience?	Students will be introduced to the use of alibi and red herring, and how to effectively incorporate them into their dialogue to increase the sense of mystery and suspicion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Herring • Facial Expression • Body Language • Gestures • Alibi • Proxemics SK1: Improvising SK2: Rehearsing SK3: Performing SK8: Analysing the performance of others	
Week 4: Lesson 1	How can we demonstrate denouement in Drama?	Students will experience watching an example of a murder mystery denouement ending and then work in groups to create a scene in which the murderer is revealed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proxemics • Facial Expression • Body Language • Characterisation • Gestures • Denouement SK1: Improvising SK2: Rehearsing SK3: Performing	
Week 5: Lesson 1	Week 5 Assessment	All students will experience performing to an audience and formally evaluating others' work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proxemics • Facial Expression • Body Language • Gestures • Characterisation 	

			SK2: Rehearsing SK3: Performing SK8: Analysing the performance of others	
Week 6: Lesson 1	How can we improve acting skills to have a deeper effect on the audience?	Students will experience reviewing feedback on their assessment and have the opportunity to improve their performance skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tone of voice • Facial Expression • Body Language • Proxemics • Gestures SK1: Improvising SK2: Rehearsing SK3: Performing SK7: Analysing their own performance and acting on feedback	

Literacy Links	Numeracy Links
Drama students gain knowledge and understanding of key terminology throughout the course of the curriculum. They will cover both vocal and physical acting skills as well as performance techniques and styles . These are used particularly in Check In tasks and discussed verbally during performance evaluations.	Drama students will experience numeracy in a variety of warm-up games and exercises which require counting and timing. They will need to time performances and calculate cast sizes.