

Year 8 Autumn Half Term 1 – Drama Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content - What is each unit about and why do we teach them?

Unit 1: Our Day Out (Performing Script) – In the first unit of Year 8, students will work practically with a script (“Our Day Out” by Willy Russell) learning how to work with and respond to stage directions, considering how an actor might use their vocal and physical acting skills to interpret their role.

Drama skills

Vocal skills (*the way an actor communicates using their voice*)

- Tone
- Intonation
- Pitch
- Pace



Physical skills (*the way an actor communicates using their body*)

- Body Language
- Movement
- Gesture



If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- Re-read key scenes from the play, you could practice these together taking on roles.
- Create a factfile for each character including key scenes and their involvement in the play.
- Create a diagram of the stage area and label the stage directions or entrances and exits of the characters in a scene.
- Complete home learning tasks set.
- Scan the QR code to visit YouTube and watch a film version of the play “Our Day Out.”



Dramatic techniques and conventions

- Improvisation – Drama is created spontaneously. A rehearsed improvisation can then be performed.
- Freeze Frame – A still image, where the actors freeze to highlight a particular moment in time.
- Entrances and exits – A character can make quite an impression by how they enter a scene. The actor should consider their character’s objective or goal.
- Levels – Physical levels of actors on stage help to signify the character status.
- Focal points – The point that the actors focus on. This could be a prop or piece of scenery or even the audience.

If your child needs extension

Challenging activities to complete:

- Create a role on the wall for each character.
- Research the social/historical context of the play “Our Day Out.” (Liverpool, 1970s)
- Write a monologue for a chosen character.
- Design a setting for the play or costumes for a chosen character.

Suggested further reading or research:

Other plays by Willy Russell, for example “Blood Brothers” which is a GCSE set text.