

Year 7 Drama Knowledge Booklet

Autumn Term Melodrama

Name:

Class:



Year 7 Drama

Melodrama

This unit starts with understanding the main rules of drama - the 5Cs. We will also be introduced to a variety of dramatic techniques in which the knowledge of these techniques will be essential to your Drama studies throughout Key Stage 3 in preparation for GCSE.

The first official unit of work studied this term will be Melodrama, whereby you will study the Key Features of Melodrama, its three stock characters, the five point structure, and Melodrama's purpose in history to the modern day.

In order to assist you in this topic, scripts will be assigned to you to use in rehearsal and learn as part of homework in preparation for your assessment.

Big Questions

1. What are the basics of Drama?
2. How do we apply dramatic techniques?
3. What is melodrama?
4. How do we use the Five Point Structure to create a full Melodrama performance?
5. How can you evaluate a Melodrama performance?

Homework

1. Read through Key Words and Definitions (***Due Lesson 2***)
2. Read through the Context pages (***Due Lesson 4***)
3. Learn and rehearse your lines with use of clear gestures and simple movement.

Knowledge Organiser - The 5 Cs

KEY WORDS & DEFINITIONS

Facial Expressions: Changing the expression on your face to represent an emotion.

Body Language: Changing how you hold yourself to show your character's emotion to the audience.

Levels: The level at which you present your character. Some people can be higher up, some lower down like on the floor.

Hot Seating: Questioning a character to gain more information.

Narration: Telling a story.

Still Image: Frozen moment to show the audience a moment in time. Often used to highlight something important.

Role Play: Pretend to take on a character i.e. a teacher to create understanding of the character.

Marking the Moment: Making a part of the performance obvious to the audience by highlighting it.

Forum Theatre: Stopping the performance to highlight areas of development and find out more about the character and story.

Thought tracking: The thoughts of a character being told to the audience when others are in a still image. Mini monologue or narration of the story.

Cross Cutting: Cutting between two scenes playing at the same time.

THE 5 Cs

Communication

Confidence

Concentration

Co-operation

Control

MIME

To mime in drama is to act without speaking. You need to use body language and facial expression to demonstrate what has happened to the audience. Over-exaggerated movements are often used.

REHEARSAL

A rehearsal is when your group creates and perfects a performance before you show the audience. Everyone must be totally focused on making the performance fantastic for your audience.



Melodrama—Context

Genre	Explanation	Leading Practitioners & Companies	Examples of Professional Repertoire
Melodrama	Simple storyline—where good always conquers evil, stock stereotypical characters, set 5-point structure, over-exaggerated acting, which appeals to emotions rather than content.	Pre-19th Century performances	Many Disney films Animation films Modern pantomimes

Melodrama—a sensational dramatic piece with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to entertain.

Historically, people of a lower class were vastly illiterate (could not read or write), therefore, melodrama was a form of entertainment that was simple and easy to follow. That is why melodramatic storylines follow a simple Five Point Structure with the three key characters that have individual use of voice, movement and physicalities.

Knowledge Organiser - Melodrama

PORTRAYING THE CHARACTERS

Clear Gestures show his power. Hands on hips, chest out and standing on his toes to make himself look bigger.



Levels - having the Damsel lower down shows her weakness and having the Villain high up shows his power and adds to the dramatic effect.



Hands and tilt of head - shows love but back to the villain - shows her rejection of him

Hands on face - shows fear or surprise

Back of hand on head - shows helplessness, despair



The Five Point Structure



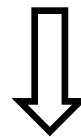
Introduce each character and how they are connected to each other and the story.



Introduce the problem (The Hero and Damsel can't be together)



Damsel in Distress kidnapped



Hero rescues Damsel



What happens to all the characters

Knowledge Organiser - Melodrama—Script

Yr7 Melodrama Script

Characters:

Lydia Languish

Captain Jack Absolute (Is in love with Lydia - but not very rich)

Mr Hardacre (Lydia's stepfather)

Lord Are (A very rich 69 year old)

Ariana (Evil Servant to Lord Are)

Robbie (Jack's bestfriend - sidekick)

Storyline:

Lydia and Captain Jack have been secretly meeting and are madly in love. Lydia's father, however, wants Lydia to marry Lord Are, whether she likes it or not. Last night Mr Hardacre told Lydia she must marry Lord Are, who greedily awaits his new bride!

Knowledge Organiser - Melodrama—Script

Scene One:

(JACK stands centre stage, he start to pace, he is nervous and impatient. He holds a note in his hands. ENTER LYDIA quickly).

JACK: Oh Lydia!

LYDIA: Oh Jack!

JACK: I was so worried, when I got your note I didn't know what to do. What's happened my love? You look so pale.

LYDIA: Oh Jack it's awful. My step father says I must marry Lord Are!

JACK: Lord Are! Never my love!

LYDIA: But he says he will throw me out on the streets without a penny unless I follow his wishes.

JACK: Then we must leave together. I must take you away.

LYDIA: But my step-father and Lord Are will find me. They will never stop searching.

JACK: Lydia, they will never capture you..... as long as you allow me to love you

LYDIA: Then they will never have me!

Knowledge Organiser - Melodrama—Script

Scene Two:

(LORD ARE'S home. LORD ARE is stood next to his fireplace staring into the flames. MR HARDACRE ENTERS)

LORD ARE: Have you brought her?

MR HARDACRE: No Sir

LORD ARE: No! You promised she would be mine by now.

MR HARDACRE: Yes well - she has run away. I have found out that she has disappeared with a young man.

LORD ARE: Who?

MR HARDACRE: Captain Jack Absolute. My men are searching - my Lord.

LORD ARE: Is he rich?

MR HARDACRE: No, not at all.

LORD ARE: Then she will soon change her mind. By the end of the week I will have her as my property.....

Knowledge Organiser - Melodrama—Script

Scene Three: The Capture Scene

(JACK and LYDIA walking through the forest)

LYDIA: oh, JACK! At last, we can be together!

JACK: There is a boat waiting for us on the river. We will sail far away to start our new life together.

(A distant cry for help)

LYDIA: oh, JACK, what was that?

JACK: Stay hidden my love, I will go see to the cry.

(LORD. ARE appears and grabs LYDIA)

LORD ARE: Hello, Lydia!

LYDIA: JACK! JACK! Save me!

JACK: LYDIA! NO! Unhand her!!

(MR. HARDACRE appears behind JACK and hits him on the back of the head. JACK falls unconscious)

Knowledge Organiser - Melodrama—Script

Scene Four: The Rescue Scene

LORD ARE: At last, you are mine!

LYDIA: (turning to MR. HARDACRE) How could you? How could you? I will never marry LORD ARE! My heart belongs to JACK!

LORD ARE: He will not be coming for you

(JACK jumps in to the scene brandishing a sword)

JACK: Not so fast, LORD ARE!

LYDIA: Oh, JACK! Save me! Save me!

LORD ARE: Prepare to meet thy doom!

JACK: Have at thee!

(swords clash in a heated fight between JACK and LORD ARE. MR. HARDACRE keeps LYDIA in a vice grip hold)

(JACK disarms LORD ARE who then runs away, with MR. HARDACRE close behind)

LYDIA: JACK, my hero!

Knowledge Organiser - Melodrama—Script

Scene Five: Happily Ever After

Sample Assessment Term 1 / 2

Assessment:

The assessment is based on the knowledge that you have gained over the first 6 weeks.

Example:

Question: What does thought track mean?

Answer: Thought track is when you come out of a still image to reveal your thoughts and feelings to the audience. This is a way of letting the audience know your story and time to express yourself without interruption. It is a mini monologue.

Sample Assessment Term 1 / 2

Assessment:

This is based on the reasons for using explorative strategies and how you have used these in your performance, as well as your understanding of the technique of Melodrama.

Example:

Long Question: Write an evaluation of your final assessment performance, give reasons why you have used the explorative strategies and what benefit they make to your performance.

Answer: Within our performance of melodrama, my character of the Damsel in Distress was emphasised through the use of exaggerated gestures to show distress and helplessness by placing the back of my hand on my forehead. This particular strength allowed me to physically convey the Damsel in Distress, however if I were to perform this again, I would ensure to include more levels in the scene when the Damsel is captured by the Villain to show weakness. This could be paired with the use of gestures to accentuate the weakness of the character.

Wider Reading / Watching

Reading:

History and Legacy of Melodrama (2017)

<https://www.elephantmelodrama.com/elephant-melodrama-blog/the-history-and-legacy-of-melodrama>

Melodrama—Juliet John (2011)

<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199799558/obo-9780199799558-0042.xml#:~:text=Melodrama%20is%20a%20genre%20that,theatre%20by%20way%20of%20French.>

19th Century Melodrama—(2004)

<https://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/spd130et/melodrama.htm>

Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melodrama>

Media:

Dramatic vs. Melodramatic: What's The Difference?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pip6uJ4BApQ>

The Rise of Melodrama: Crash Course Theatre #28

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxzz31ww4M4>



