

Year 8 Drama Knowledge Booklet

Autumn Term Choral Speech

Name:

Class:



Year 8 Drama

Choral Speech

This unit will start to introduce another strategy to help with devised performances, making performances more interesting with the use of movement and voice through the use of Choral Speech.

Students will use the poem 'The Teenagers' to explore the different components of choral speech; combination of speakers, diction, articulation, rhythm, volume, timing and movement.

Big Questions

1. What is **Choral Speech**?
2. How can you use **Movement** to develop the use of **Choral Speech** to narrate a poem?
3. How can you use **Gestures** to develop the use of Choral Speech to Narrate a poem?
4. How can you use **rehearsal time** effectively to **improve** your performance of Choral Speech?
5. How do you **evaluate** a Choral Speech **performance**?

Context

CONTEXT

The first poem to be used to introduce Choral Speech is the poem 'Teenagers', a modern poem about modern teenagers and their feelings about school.

Knowledge Organiser - Choral Speech

CHORAL SPEECH

A group of people working together to create an atmospheric piece of narration as if one person. It must include one voice on its own, two voices, three voices and so on. Words can be repeated, made quieter or louder and completed on a carousel. Movements are put with the words but must be with a rhythm or linked to the words to create a full performance.

ORIGIN OF CHORAL SPEECH

A Greek Chorus, or simply chorus in the context of Ancient Greek tragedy, comedy, satire plays and modern works inspired by them, is a homogeneous, non-individualised group of performers, who comment with a collective voice on the dramatic action. This was the origin of the choral speech we know today.

KEY FEATURES OF CHORAL SPEECH

Movement - The act or process of moving people or things from one place or position to another.

Diction - The clarity of how whole sentences/performances are delivered.

Articulation - The clarity of how each word is spoken.

Combination of speakers - The arrangement of different numbers of people speaking at the same time as if one voice.

Character - In the context of Choral speech there are no individual characters just the notion of one voice narrating.

Timing - The choice, judgement, or control of when something should be done.

Atmosphere - The mood created by a performance, interpreted by the audience.

Choreograph - Create a sequence of moves.

Dramatic Tension - The anticipation of an outcome on stage, keeping the audience in suspense.

Teenagers Poem

Hey!! We're back!

We, the teenagers! What? Power Rangers?

No! No! Teenagers, silly!

Ooohhh!

Life is never easy for us teens...

Every day we face problems , challenges..

Why? Oohh why?

First of all we are expected to...Study! Study! Study!

And be Busy! Busy! Busy!

Aahhhh... so boring you know!

But we try hard to do our best

To make our parents proud!

And not to hear them shout!

We talk about everything

Politics? Naahhh, Economics? Ohh please!

Then what?

We talk about... boys and girls

Because, this is the age, we are interested in

L-O-V-E ...love!!... mmmm!

Teenagers Poem

Teenagers have set
Fire! Fire!
Where? Where?
At school! At school!
Quick! Call the fire brigade! Who did this? Who's the fool?
Vandalism! Gangsterism!
Causing lots of criticism!
But it's too late!
The school is gone all due to hate!

Teenage life!
From childhood to adulthood!
A period of transition
Of raging hormones and confusion

When we express our feelings
We are outspoken
When we do things our way
We are outrageous
But when we ask for opinions
You don't have the time!

Homework Tasks

1. Read the 'Context' and 'Origins of Choral Speech' sections.

To be completed by lesson 3 _____

2. Read the 'Key Features of Choral Speech' section.

To be completed by lesson 4 _____

3. Learn your lines for your performance.

To be completed by lesson 6 _____

For homeworks 1 and 2 you will be tested on your understanding, knowledge and recall of the information on the knowledge organiser page as part of your engage task, there will be 5 questions - a score of 5 will earn a house point, a score of 2 or below will indicate you have not completed your homework and you will receive a BP.

For homework 3 you will be asked to perform your lines without the use of the script in lesson to determine if you have completed your homework.

Sample Assessment

Some questions will require a short answer or be multiple choice.

1. What is Choral Speech?
2. What is the origin of Choral Speech?
3. What are the key features of Choral Speech?

Some questions will be open ended and require a much more detailed answer, for example:

1. How did you perform the Teenagers poem? What dramatic strategies did you use and how? How did these make a difference to your performance?

Model Answer:

Within our performance of the Teenagers poem, we used the dramatic strategy Choral Speech. We used many voices at the same time to create a loud verse, with different tones of voice to create harmony. This gave emotion to the verse and helped to show what was going on in the verse— not just the words but the emotion that the teenagers could be feeling.

Notes / Ideas

Use the space below to record any notes or ideas you want to bring into class for your performance. This is not homework and will not be marked.

YouTube - Choral Speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmbiVG-TOEM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YshUDa10JYY>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRq7lLawQB4&list=PLNFH2y8TmnIPiR1jwUVfT_MlLZGrt_0m

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXCOg44Aqh8>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFRzl2Oe_Bs