

Y9 T3: Theatre Writing

Fundamentals of drama

suspension of disbelief: understanding that what you are watching isn't real but engaging with it as if it is.

allusion: an indirect reference to something else (usually for dramatic effect).

collaborative: when lots of different things all work together to achieve a desired outcome.

universal human truth: an idea or experience that can be understood by anyone, anywhere, in any period of history.

dialogue: when two or more characters are speaking on stage

plot: the sequence of events in a play

Characters

REVISE FROM Y9 T2

protagonist: the main character in a story.

antagonist: the primary opponent of the protagonist.

flaw: a character's notable weakness that a writer can take advantage of to create drama.

motivation: what drives a character; the goal for which they are aiming which informs how they behave.

external conflict: conflict or struggle which takes place between a character and an outside force

internal conflict: when a character struggles with their own opposing desires or beliefs.

Structure

REVISE FROM Y8:

exposition: when key information is given about setting, character or situation, usually at the start

rising action: when there is a complication and the tension starts to build.

climax: the most intense part of a story where the protagonist faces the central conflict head on.

falling action: when characters react to the climax and the writer starts to wrap the story up.

denouement: when the strands of the story are brought together and resolved and any questions are answered.

Crafting description

modification: changing the quality of words by using extra information, usually adjectives and adverbs.

expansion: when you make a sentence longer by adding additional phrases or clauses.

precise nouns/verbs: using specific words to show exactly what it is you are describing, e.g. *Ferrari* instead of *car*. *Staggered* instead of *walked*.

atmosphere: the overall mood of a text, which is created by the writer's language choices.

Crafting scripts

REVISE FROM Y8 :

contraction: shortening a word or phrase using an apostrophe.

filler: a meaningless phrase, word or sound a person makes while they think of what to say next.

dialect: language specific to region or group.

idiolect: language specific to an individual.

fragmentation: a sentence that is not complete because it is missing either a subject, a verb or both.

show don't tell: giving the audience information without directly telling them, either through exposition in dialogue, careful use of setting or character action.

Dramatic devices

foreshadowing: when the writer hints at something that will happen later in the story.

dramatic irony: the tension created when the audience knows something that the characters don't.

parallel action/scenes: when separate but connected things are happening onstage at the same time.

soliloquy: when a character speaks their thoughts aloud in an extended speech to themselves or the audience.

aside: when a character briefly steps out of the action of the play to talk to the audience.