

Year 8 Drama – Storytelling



Background Information

We will explore how a range of vocal and physical techniques can be combined to tell a Story with a particular focus on an audience of children. We will explore which theatre genres use these techniques effectively.

Key terms and Skills

Narration	Using our bodies to create props or objects that can be used within a scene.
Choral Speaking	Two or more people saying the same thing at the same time.
Soundscapes	A combination of different and relevant sounds that help to create a backdrop for our acting. The sounds need to relate to the setting and what is going on in the scene.
Levels	Using different heights, for example sat down, stood up, stood on something, to add more variety to a performance.
Synchronised Movement	Two or more people performing the same movements at the same time.
Climax	The most intense or exciting part of something. In drama we need to highlight this point to the audience using a range of techniques.

Storytelling for Children: Storytelling is all about how we communicate a story to the audience that will allow their imagination to be provoked. Within storytelling we need to consider the age of audience so that we can help guide them through the story. When we are storytelling for children, using techniques such as Narration where we talk directly to the audience is really useful. Highlighting key parts of the story through techniques such as Choral Speaking and Synchronised Movement is also important. Techniques such as Levels, Climax and Soundscapes all help to keep the audiences attention and make your storytelling piece interesting.

What tasks will I be completing?

- Exercises to develop understanding of the storytelling techniques
- Group storytelling activity using the Jabberwocky poem by Lewis Carroll
- Group storytelling assessment piece, using one of Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes.

Revolting Rhymes is a collection of Roald Dahl poems published in 1982. A parody of traditional folk tales in verse, Dahl gives a re-interpretation of six well-known fairy tales, featuring surprise endings in place of the traditional happily-ever-after finishes. The poems are illustrated by Quentin Blake. It is the shortest children's book he has written.

"Jabberwocky" is a nonsense poem written by Lewis Carroll about the killing of a creature named "the Jabberwock". It was included in his 1871 novel Through the Looking-Glass, the sequel to Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (1865). The book tells of Alice's adventures within the back-to-front world of Looking-Glass Land.

Rules of Rehearsals

Stay **FACING THE AUDIENCE** audience when you are speaking - no backs to the audience

LISTEN to each other and **REACT** to what the characters are saying

Stay in **CHARACTER** throughout the performance

TAKE TIME saying your lines - you don't need to rush

PROJECT your voice so that we can hear you