

# Year 7 & 8 | Drama | Introduction



## Theatre in action

When you go to the theatre, you will see how the stage is transformed into a different place or time that the audience can believe in.

This atmosphere is created through: backdrop, lighting, props, costume and sound/music.

To be successful on stage we need to work on creating a believable character. Check out the keyword box to help you do this!

Lots of drama devices are used during rehearsal and performance. Check out the list below. How many can you remember?

**Still image:** A still image is a frozen moment on stage where the characters stay still to clearly stop the play and show the audience a moment in time. It is often used to highlight something important that has happened.

**Thought tracking:** Thought-tracking helps inform an audience about a character. You see it in action when a character speaks out loud about his/her inner thoughts at a particular moment in the drama, or during a freeze frame/still-image.

**Narration:** A technique whereby one or more performers speak directly to the audience to tell a story, give information, or comment on the action of the scene or the motivations of characters.

**Soundscape:** Using voice and body to create the sound of an environment.

**Physical Theatre:** A movement based style of theatre. Often using our bodies to represent things that aren't human.

**Conscience work:** A device to show a character's conscience at work. It is often represented as Angels & Devils to be the good and bad thoughts.



Body language	Communicating via movement. Features gestures and facial expressions etc.
Facial Expression	Conveys an emotion that tells us about the character and the way they
Gesture	A body movement that conveys meaning, such as waving at someone.
Proxemics	How the actors/characters are placed on a stage. The distance or level between character/actors shows their relationships and feelings
Levels	Using different heights onstage to create visual interest. Levels can be used to suggest status - meaning the power or authority one character has
Voice	Using pitch, pace, pause, projection and accent.
character	A person portrayed in a play.

## Vocal techniques in Drama: **The '4' P'S!**

**Pitch:** How high or low your voice is.

**Pace:** The speed in which you speak.

**Pause:** A break in speech.

**Projection:** Using your voice loudly and clearly.

