



Knowledge Organiser

DRAMA

Drama



Vocabulary	
Question:	Answer:
What does 'Dialogue' mean?	The characters lines within the play.
What does 'Duologue' mean?	A scripted conversation between two people.
What does 'Monologue' mean?	A speech where one person is talking to another character.
What does 'Proxemics' mean?	The space between two or more characters.
What does 'Status' mean?	Social hierarchy.
What does 'Staging/blocking' mean?	Directing where the actors stand and move within a scene in rehearsal.
What does 'Atmosphere' mean?	The mood that is created on stage either by lighting, sound, character and set.
What does the term 'Character Relations' refer to?	The different characters relationships between each other communicated to the audience.

What is the definition of these rehearsal techniques?	
Conscience Alley	One person walks down an alleyway made by the group and listens to thoughts or advice.
Cross-cutting	Cross-cutting (also called split-screen) is a drama technique borrowed from the world of film editing, where two scenes are intercut
Flash-back/ Flash Forward	Performers in a scene are asked to improvise scenes which take place seconds, minutes, days or years before or after
Freeze Frame	The use of body-shapes and postures to represent characters or objects.
Hot seating	A character is questioned by the group about his or her background, behaviour and motivation.
Narration	Narration is a technique whereby one or more performers speak directly to the audience to tell a story, give information
Role on the wall	Role on the wall is a collaborative activity for developing thoughts and ideas about a character.
Soundscape	The leader or one member of the group acts as conductor, whilst the rest of the group are the 'orchestra'.
Tableau(x)	In a tableau, participants make still images with their bodies to represent a scene.
Thought Tracking	A way to speak aloud the thoughts or feelings of a character in a freeze-frame.
Actioning	Annotating your script and giving your lines a verb to act upon.
Bamboo canes	Using the bamboo canes to act as the status shift between two people

Stanislavski	
What style of theatre is Stanislavski a practitioner of?	Naturalism.
Where was Stanislavski born?	Russia.
During what major historical event was Stanislavski alive?	The Russian Revolution.
His collection of techniques was called?	The System.
What are 'given circumstances'?	The facts of the script.
What are objectives?	The aims of the character in the scene.
What are super objectives?	The characters aim for the whole play.
What are units?	The parts defining each objective.
What is emotional memory?	Where an actor uses personal past experiences to aide them in a scene.
What is subtext?	The true meaning hidden with a line of text.
What does the term "magic if" mean?	The actor asking, "What would I do in this situation?" and acting accordingly.
What is the 'Fourth Wall'?	An imaginary wall created by the actor to help them perform naturalistically.

Bertold Brecht	
What style of theatre is Brecht a practitioner of?	Brechtian.
What style of Theatre did he create?	Epic Theatre.
What was his main purpose of Theatre?	To educate. Didactic approach.
What is the difference between Epic theatre and Dramatic theatre?	Epic theatre leaves the audience with questions and challenges while Dramatic theatre has a plot that reaches a conclusion.
What major difference did he have to Stanislavski?	He broke the fourth wall. This was to distance the audience from the emotional content of the play allowing the audience to focus on the political message of the play.
What is the idea of verfremdungseffekt, or the "V" effect?	Brecht wants the audience to be alienated from what they see.
What are placards?	Signs giving the audience relevant information.
What does it mean for a play to be episodic?	Breaking the play up into 'chunks' to focus on the message.
What is Gestus?	A simple gesture made to signal to the audience what character the actor was playing.
What is Direct-address?	When the actor talks directly to the audience.
What is Multi-roling?	When an actor plays more than one role.
In which century did Brecht work?	The 20 th century.
What is a montage in Brechtian theatre?	A series of self-contained scenes that work effectively through juxtaposition with each other.
What nationality was Brecht?	German.
How did Brecht become a stateless citizen?	He fled from Germany in the 1930s and the Nazis removed his citizenship.

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Devising	
How could you use conscience alley?	One person walks down an alleyway made by the group and listens to thoughts or advice. This can show a character's choice within a specific dilemma.
Cross-cutting	Cross-cutting (also called split-screen) is a drama technique borrowed from the world of film editing, where two scenes are intercut
Why might you use a Flash-back/ Flash Forward?	You can show the audience scenes which take place seconds, minutes, days or years before the main story. This can add greater depth to the story.
Why might you use a freeze frame?	To enhance a particular point or moment in the story.
How can hot seating help you to develop a character?	You can understand more about his or her background, behaviour and motivation.
Why is narration useful?	You can tell the audience key information or describe a scene in detail that you cannot show on stage.
Why would you use thought tracking?	It is a way to speak aloud the thoughts or feelings of a character without the other characters hearing.
Can you use more than one genre or practitioner?	It is advisable to choose one practitioner/genre so as to ensure that the ideas are explored clearly within the piece and there's no confusion.

DNA by Dennis Kelly	
Act 3 Scene 3: Adam is alive and has been living in a hedge. He has survived by living off dead animals. He has clearly sustained a head injury. Describe the relationship between Phil and Adam at the beginning of the scene above.	Adam is the boy that Phil thought they had killed. Adam is scared of Phil and the others. Phil is speechless and at the beginning doesn't know how to deal with Adam – whom he thought was dead.
Name two rehearsal techniques the actors could use for this scene.	Hot seating, Status games. Thought tracking.
Why might you use these techniques?	Hot seating – could help the actors to understand how their characters feel towards each other; Status rehearsal techniques – could help the actors understand who has the power in this section; Thought tracking – could support the actors in their understanding of their inner attitude to each other.
Why might you use a freeze frame?	To enhance a particular point or moment in the story.
How can hot seating help you to develop a character?	You can understand more about his or her background, behaviour and motivation.
Why is narration useful?	You can tell the audience key information or describe a scene in detail that you cannot show on stage.
Why would you use thought tracking?	It is a way to speak aloud the thoughts or feelings of a character without the other characters hearing.
Describe the atmosphere in this extract?	The mood is very unstable as the characters realise that the boy they thought they had killed is alive. There is an atmosphere of tension as Brian talks incessantly. Phil's silence creates clear tension in the scene and the conflict between the others.
Explain how any one line in the extract illustrates the atmosphere. 'We found him up there, up the hill.'	'...I found him, I found him, I found Adam living in a hedge, I found him.' Brian's incessant talking creates tension. 'suddenly CATHY slaps him' This line emphasises the climax of the extract and the tension that is dominating the action.
As a designer, what would you need to consider when approaching this scene.	The extract is set in the woods. The mood is full of tension, insecurity and aggression. The atmosphere is fraught because of the underlying tension between the characters.
As a designer, give three ways you would use lighting and/or sound to communicate the atmosphere in this extract. Give reasons for your suggestions.	Special effects such as strobe. Sound effects could enhance the tension at the beginning and set the scene. Use of non-naturalistic sound effects to create tension e.g. heart-beat.

'DNA' Synopsis	
What happens in Act 1?	Scene 1: Mark and Jan discuss that someone is 'dead' and this throws the audience into the middle of the action. Scene 2: Leah talks and Phil eats. Leah wants answers to know what Phil is thinking. Scene 3: John Tate is clearly stressed and tries to ban others using the word 'dead'. He tries to keep control over the group by using fear and threats. Richard threatens his leadership but this is suppressed. When Mark and Jan arrive, they explain to the group their version of events leading up to Adam falling into the grille. They try to justify their vicious attack on him by saying he was laughing. Phil finally speaks and devises a plan to frame a non-existent person. Scene 4: Leah speaks about bonobos being our nearest relatives. This could be seen as the author's voice coming through about how he feels about the nature of bullies
What happens in Act 2?	Scene 1: The audience learn that someone is 'not going'...this is a reference to Brian not going to the police station Scene 2: Leah is still trying to gain Phil's attention. This time she talks about the nature of happiness. She shows him a Tupperware container and says it is Jerry. She describes how she has killed him.

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	<p>Scene 3: The police have found a man that fits the description of the man that Phil concocted because Cathy used her 'initiative' to find a man that matched the description. The plan has gone wrong. Brian is refusing to go into the police station to identify the man who is being framed. Phil threatens him with being taken up to the grille if he doesn't go. Brian goes.</p> <p>Scene 4: Leah tries to get Phil's attention again. This time she has déjà vu.</p>
What happens in Act 3?	<p>Scene 1: Jan and Mark reveal Cathy has 'found someone' in the woods. It turns out to be Adam</p> <p>Scene 2: Leah arrives in the scene with a packed suitcase. She is trying to gain Phil's attention by threatening to leave and telling him not to try and stop her...he doesn't. She tells him about Adam's memorial and that she has seen Cathy on the TV. She tells him that everyone is happier 'funny this is they're all actually behaving better as well...' (p47).</p> <p>Scene 3: Adam is alive and has been living in a hedge. He has survived by living off dead animals. He has clearly sustained a head injury. Phil instructs Jan, Mark and Lou to leave and not say anything. He shows Cathy how to kill Adam by tying a plastic bag around Brian's head (who is by not on medication and is clearly losing his mind). Leah begs him not to do this.</p> <p>Scene 4: Leah does not speak. Phil offers her a sweet and as he puts his arm round her to show affection, she spits out the sweet and leaves in disgust. Phil shouts after her</p>
What happens in Act 4?	<p>Scene 1: Jan and Mark reveal someone has 'gone'. This turns out to be Leah.</p> <p>Scene 2: Richard tries to convince Phil to re-join the group. He tries to gain his attention in similar ways to Leah. Phil does not speak. He also does not eat. Leah's departure has clearly affected him. Richard tells him what has happened to the rest of the group.</p>

How does the street contextualise the play?	Jan and Marks scenes in The Street introduce the audience to what has been happening to the characters and then prepare us for the action that is to come in the group scenes (Scene 3 in each act).
How are monologues used in the play?	<p>Leah's speeches seemingly discuss irrelevant topic that are completely unrelated to the situation the groups are in. Deeper analysis will reveal that each speech could be metaphorical and applied to the group completely (the Bonobos and Chimps for example).</p> <p>Ultimately, she is trying to get Phil's attention. When she can't gain his attention through thoughtful words, she tries something more physical or shocking (strangling herself, showing her 'Jerry')</p>
How does the wood contextualise the play?	<p>The Wood is a suitable setting for the whole group scenes because of the connotations a wood has. They tend to be on the outskirts of a settlement and could be described as dark, mysterious, isolated etc.</p> <p>The discussions that the group have when they are in the woods are about things that should be kept hidden from normal society. The setting actually allows the events to take place without anyone finding out.</p>
How does the play relate to a modern audience?	<p>DNA deals with a whole host of contemporary issues through its portrayal of a particularly disaffected and alienated teenage-orientated view of the 'modern' world.</p> <p>The characters are loosely drawn and not often given space to comment on anything other than their immediate world and the complications of the relationships through which it is structured.</p>
How does the play convey teenage relationships and behaviour in modern day society?	<p>DNA, as a drama, takes the negativity and nihilism of a group of teenagers to a wholly different level.</p> <p>There is virtually no communication with the world outside the friendship group portrayed in the opening scenes.</p> <p>The world of the characters takes very little notice of the rest of society until faced with the consequences of an act of wilful and 'mindless' aggression.</p> <p>The writer has named the characters but left performers able to change names to suit their own preference.</p> <p>The character-constructs and the moral choices that they make are more important than a name.</p>
What are the themes in the play?	Gangs, Control, Violence, Justice, Innocence, Humanity, Power, Morality, Sadism and Guilt.

Exam Style Questions	
What are performance skills?	Voice Movement Gesture Facial expressions levels
What are vocal skills?	Pitch Pace Volume Emphasis Tone
What are physical skills?	Gesture/action Movement
How can you use physical skills to show an anxious character?	Pacing up and down the stage

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How could you use vocal skills to show excitement?	Use an enthusiastic tone of voice Speak in a fast pace
As a director, how would you use staging to bring DNA to life?	Projection showing a wood Real leaves on the floor of the stage Setting the play 'in the round' to make the characters feel claustrophobic
As a director, how would you use costume to bring DNA to life?	Modern clothes to show the period of the piece School uniform to show the character's age Showing status using different colours or style for each character
As a director, how would you use sound to bring DNA to life?	Recorded noises to show location and time of day Increased heart beat sound to show tension
What was the context for which DNA was created?	To be performed by and watched by a young audience To deal with modern issues such as peer pressure and bullying