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| **Key concepts, events, people, dates, questions or processes** |
| **Vocal Skills**  | How you use your voice effectively, when rehearsing and performing. Also refers to how you might change your voice to play a character different to yourself.  |
| **Physical Skills**  | How to create a character using your body, including how you move, stand, sit, what you do with your hands, etc.  |
| **Relationships with other characters and the audience**  | These skills show the audience what sort of relationship the characters have with each other, and with the audience. Some characters speak directly to the audience e.g. in a Pantomime. In a naturalistic play, the actors pretend that the audience is not there, and behave as you would in real life.  |
| **Elements of Drama** | Technical elements, like lighting, sound, music, set, costume, make-up, props, special effects (sfx) |
| **Use of Space**  | When rehearsing, we need to be aware of others, and not invade their practice space. When performing, we need to show awareness of audience.  |

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| **Key Vocabulary** | **Definitions**  | ***Examples*** |
| **Volume** | How loudly or quietly you speak – your volume may change depending on the character’s mood, the number of people in the room, etc.  | *If the room is full, you may need to use a louder volume than normal, in order to be heard.* |
| **Tone**  | The tone of your voice is how you convey emotion, how your character is feeling.  | *For example, if your character is angry, they might use an aggressive tone of voice to show this.* |
| **Pace** | How quickly or slowly you speak – if your character is excited, they might speak at a rushed pace.  | *If your character is talking to a child, the pace might be slow and deliberate, so the child understands.*  |
| **Pitch** | How high or low you speak – a squeaky voice is high-pitched.  | *Most male characters have low-pitched voices.* |
| **Accent/ Dialect** | An accent is attached to a geographical location, e.g. I speak with an Irish accent because I’m from Ireland.  | *You can change the accent, depending on the role you are playing.*  |
| **Body Language/ Posture/ Stance** | How you use your body to communicate a character.  | *If my character is angry, I might turn my back, or fold my arms across my chest in a defensive movement.*  |
| **Gestures** | How you use your hands to communicate a character. | *If I stand with my palms open, it suggests that I have nothing to hide, or that I don’t understand. Try some more gestures!* |
| **Facial Expressions** | How you use your face to express an emotion.  | *Practise a range of facial expressions in the mirror at home; is your emotion clear? Why? Can you describe what you’re doing?* |
| **Levels** | Using different heights to convey a message to the audience.  | *Who is higher status in your piece? How can you use levels to show this? Think about Cinderella – where does she begin the play?* |
| **Projection** | You can project your voice, by speaking loudly, or you can project your character physically by exaggerating the movements/ facial expressions. | *What effect does it have, when you exaggerate your actions/ movement?*  |
| **Audience Awareness** | Making sure that the audience can see and hear you, and your fellow actors, when you are performing.  | *REALLY IMPORTANT! We perform for an audience all the time, so it is vital that they are able to see and hear us.*  |
| **Stage Directions** | These are instructions telling the actors where they should be on stage, how they should say certain lines of dialogue. They can also instruct the director how the set should look.  | *Stage directions are always distinct from the dialogue – usually in bold font and italics so they stand out.*  |
| **Blocking** | In Drama, blocking refers to the characters’’ positions on stage, rather than someone standing in front of someone else – this is actually called ‘masking’.  | *When you ‘block out’ a scene, you decide where everyone will walk, stand, sit, lie.* |
| **Proxemics** | This refers to how we use the distance between characters to show their relationship to each other.  | *Friends might stand side-by-side, enemies might stand back-to-back.* |
| **Eye Contact/ Focus** | We use our eyes to draw the audience’s attention to someone or something. Even in a still image, focus is important because it tells the audience where to look.  | *You look wherever you want the audience to look – imagine your eyes as a camera’s viewpoint.*  |
| **Props** | Short for ‘Properties’ and refers to items used by actors in a performance, e.g. a mobile phone, a book. | *Props can also be symbolic, e.g. a rose on the stage might symbolise love, a gun might symbolise war or death.* |
| **Set** | The set is the area where the performance takes place – it can be naturalistic (like real life) or non-naturalistic, to suggest a mood or atmosphere.  | *In Pantomime, the set might consist of an enchanted forest, a village and a castle – painted on backdrops.*  |
|  **Top Tips to make you a better performer!** |  |
| * **Observe other people – take note of how they behave in certain situations. Look at their body language, their facial expressions, and how they change their voices depending on their mood. All great actors are great people-watchers! Be an active observer – focus on one thing at a time – really watch and think about what you see!**
* Research the style, practitioner, topic you are studying in Drama – use YouTube, Google, Instagram, the library. Get one step ahead!
* **Speak Drama’s language! It is vital that you know how to use the vocabulary on this sheet appropriately. It will help you when you have to give feedback, and when you have to analyse your own performance. Learn the words and be able to explain them!**
* Remember to abide by the rules of the performance space – we must be aware of how we behave, as participants and observers. Safety is paramount at all times! We watch quietly, we do not impose on another groups’ performance space.
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| **Expand your knowledge and understanding!** – useful websites/podcasts/videos etc…**One Stop-Shop –** [www.essentialdrama.com](http://www.essentialdrama.com) **–** featuring interviews and links to important practitioners, companies, styles, etc.**BBC Bitesize -** <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zbckjxs> - covers everything from creating to evaluating, and lots of handy videos.  |
| **Giving feedback? Use these prompts to help you:** | * I really liked it when you ……. Because that showed…..
* Physically/ Vocally, your characterisation was good because…
* I thought it was effective the way that you…..
* Could you try….?
* Have you thought about….?
* I understood the message of the piece because….
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