

Y9 Term 1

Knowledge
Organiser



Understanding and Evaluating Drama

'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare

Key Drama and Theatre terminology

Props- items that actors use in a performance.

Set- the scenery and furniture on stage.

Flat – A piece of 2D scenery consisting of a frame, usually covered with canvas, onto which scenery is painted, weights are used to keep a flat upright.

Truck – A platform on castors which can be wheeled onto stage and locked into positions as part of the scenery

Flies – the are above the stage where the flying rig and lighting rig is positioned.

Flying – Lifting scenery into the space above the stage or suspending an actor in a harness to give the illusion of flying

Hydraulics – Mechanisms which use pressure to raise or lower scenery and actors

Rostra – Platforms to create different levels on stage

Cyclorama – Material that is used to create a back drop and when back lit becomes transparent.

Trap Door – A cut through section of the stage floor through which actors or scenery can appear.

Backcloth/drop – A canvas that is spread the width of the back of the stage and onto which scenery is painted.

Thrust stage – audience on three sides

Proscenium arch stage – traditional theatre stage with audience all on one side facing the same way

Auditorium – the area where the audience sit to watch a performance.

Stalls/circle/balcony – different levels of the theatre auditorium from bottom to top.

Wings – the offstage area to the side of the stage.



Students must develop their ability to:

- Use Drama and theatre terminology appropriately
- Analyse the design choices of theatremakers.
- Evaluate a piece of Live Theatre

USE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING IN EXPLORING A SET TEXT and EVALUATING A PIECE OF LIVE THEATRE

The Tempest is a play about magic, betrayal, love and forgiveness. It is set on an island somewhere near Italy where Prospero, the one-time Duke of Milan, and his beautiful daughter, Miranda, live with a sprite called Ariel and a strange wildman called Caliban. Prospero is a powerful magician who creates a storm, or tempest, that sets the scene for the play. In the events that follow we see a plot to murder the King of Naples, a drunken scheme to kill Prospero and a romance between Miranda and the King's son, Ferdinand. In the end everyone is forgiven and they all set sail for home.

The Tempest was written in 1611. At the time great voyages of discovery were undertaken by fearless explorers such as Sir Walter Raleigh and Christopher Columbus to find new lands. The Elizabethans were fascinated with sea voyages that led to the discovery of new lands and peoples. At this time, the world was far different from how we know it now . . . places such as America and Australia were yet to be discovered.

Elizabethan Theatre

Use the following links to learn about the theatre at the time of William Shakespeare

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D1rbtHchv1g>

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/discover/about-us/virtual-tour/>

Production details about 'The Tempest' can be found here:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/the-tempest/gregory-doran-2016-production>

