



## KS3: Melodrama Script Skills

*Students are to develop an awareness of the conventions of Melodrama, focus on the use of vocal skills and physical skills to create exaggerated characters and develop further awareness of the use of the stage. To be introduced to the role of the director*

### The Actor's Tool Kit

- Pitch
- Pace
- Tone
- Accent
- Volume
- Emphasis
- Facial Expressions
- Gestures
- Posture
- Mannerism
- Body Language



### Social and Historical Context

Melodrama is a style of theatre that was prevalent in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It uses stereotypes or stock characters and exaggeration to appeal to the audience's emotions. The plots are very sensational. Very exaggerated facial expressions, speaking aside to the audience and exaggerated gestures are used to evoke emotion to the audience.

### How to learn lines:

1. Look, cover, write, check
2. Ask someone to read the line before yours and test you
3. Record them and listen to them
4. Practice them for 5 – 10 minutes each day.



"Lucy! tell me that this man is a madman!"

### Careers in the Theatre



**Director** - A director is in charge of the artistic elements of a production. A director will often have the initial creative idea ('concept') for a production, will work with the actors in rehearsal, and will collaborate with designers and the technical team to realise this idea in performance

### Genre Conventions

**Music** – Music is an integral part of the performance and helps heighten the audience's emotions.

**Stock characters** – the innocent, the mother, the villain, the sidekick and the hero are often found in melodramas

Good characters enter stage right, and wicked characters to the left!

# Year 7 Glossary

<b>Mime</b>	The use of movements, gestures and facial expressions to communicate an idea without words
<b>Posture</b>	The position a character holds themselves in when sitting or standing
<b>Gestures</b>	A movement made by part of the body (e.g. arms, head) to convey a character's emotion
<b>Mannerism</b>	A repeated physical or vocal habit that contributes to characterisation
<b>Pitch</b>	How high or low an actor's voice is. This can be used as a feature of a character or to show a character's emotional state.
<b>Pace</b>	Pace is the speed that lines are delivered
<b>Volume</b>	How loud or quiet a vocal performance is. This could be a feature of a character or how a character's emotions is expressed
<b>Intonation</b>	This is the rise and fall of a voice that created a natural pattern of speech. This can be used to create meaning, by stressing a word for emphasis
<b>Tone</b>	How a line is delivered, adding emotional impact to spoken words
<b>Accent</b>	Can signal to the audience where a character is from, social class or status
<b>Pauses</b>	Pauses can be used to create tension, can shape the delivery of an actor's lines and/or can add to the realism of a scene
<b>Facial Expressions</b>	Movement of the eyes, eyebrows and mouth, such as smiling and frowning. These movement communicate the emotional response of the character

<b>Movement</b>	The way an actor moves on stage can tell the audience about their character. Stillness can also be used to convey how a character is feeling.
<b>Gestures</b>	Gestures are movements created with parts of the body, such as the hands, arms and head. These are an effective way of conveying the character's emotions
<b>Mannerism</b>	These are small repeated gestures that help the audience to understand aspects of a character's personality.
<b>Unison</b>	The process where actions or dialogue happen at the same time and in the same way
<b>Canon</b>	People moving or speaking in the same way one after the other
<b>Thrust Stage</b>	A stage that extends out into the audience, so that they are seated on three sides
<b>Traverse</b>	A long, narrow stage which runs between the audience, who face the stage on both sides
<b>Proscenium Arch Stage</b>	A box shaped stage which is set back from the audience so that the front end is open to them, frames by the arch itself
<b>End on Stage</b>	A stage which has the audience on one side of the stage, facing the action
<b>In the Round</b>	A style of staging where the audience surrounds the action on four sides
<b>Chanting</b>	A chant is a short, simple series of syllables or words that are spoken with the same tone. It is usually repetitive
<b>Narration</b>	A character who comments on the action and the plot to the audience. can be first- person (involved in the