

## Year Six Knowledge Organiser: Drama— Where will your imagination take you?

### National Curriculum Specification

Pupils should be taught:

- To read and discuss a wide range of fiction (including stories and plays), increasing their familiarity with fiction from our literary heritage.
- To prepare plays to read aloud and perform, showing understanding through intonation, tone and volume so that the meaning is clear to an audience.
- In writing narratives, to consider how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed.
- In narratives, to describe settings, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action.

A good actor needs to focus on the following elements in their performance...



#### Key Vocabulary

Accent	A change in voice which determines where someone comes from e.g. Scottish, Scouse or Stokie.
Body Language	How you stand and hold your body during a performance.
Intonation	The rise and fall of a voice when speaking.
Pitch	How high or low your voice is.
Tone of Voice	The emotion within your voice e.g. excitement or a furious tone of voice.
Volume	How loud or quiet your voice is spoken.
Facial Expressions	How you express emotions through your face.
Stage Directions	An instruction in the text of a play that shows the movement, position, or tone an actor should use, or the sound effects and lighting.
Split Scene	A drama technique where two separate scenes are performed on the stage at the same time to show continuity

#### Talking points for home!

- Have a look at some of Shakespeare's plays and poetry. How do they ignite your imagination? Which is your favourite and why?
- Some phrases that Shakespeare wrote in his plays are things we still say today. Can you find out what some of them are?
- Shakespeare uses old English in his plays; find some phrases/words you don't understand and find out what they mean.
- Which elements of his writing would you use as inspiration for your own?
- Research famous Shakespeare quotes and find out which play they were from.



When putting on a play, directors (the person who leads and organises the performance) must support and guide the actors but they also need to pay attention to set design, makeup/costume design and technical elements such as lighting and sound.

One of England's most famous playwrights is William Shakespeare:

**'All the world's a stage, and the men and women merely players.'**

*As You Like It (Act II, Scene VII)  
by William Shakespeare*

What do you think this quote means?



#### Key Facts: about William Shakespeare

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in April 1564 and he died on the 23rd April 1616.

Shakespeare's wife's name was Anne Hathaway and he had three children: Susanna, Hamnet and Judith.

Shakespeare wrote 154 sonnets and around 40 plays. One of Shakespeare's first plays was *Henry V*.

Shakespeare worked as actor with the Lord Chamberlain's Men, later called the King's Men. His theatre group performed in the Globe Theatre and the Blackfriars Theatre. No females were allowed to perform in the theatre at the time, so men had to play the female parts!

Shakespeare's plays were performed for both Queen Elizabeth I and King James I – James I was the patron of Shakespeare's theatre group.