

Exploratory Drama Tasks

Below is a list of questions and tasks to guide your study of any play, they're intentionally non-specific so that they can be used with a wide variety of texts.

1. After viewing a production

If you cannot see a live show there are productions available online, such as *The National Theatre London*.

- Focus on two particular characters or actors for detailed study (e.g. gesture, walk, stance, body language, facial expression and use of voice).
- Jot down enough detail to be able to expand on two or three particularly striking moments with as much visual detail as possible*
- You could also use and associated interviews to gain more insight into the choices the actors and/or director made for the production. You will need to conduct some research to locate the sources.

**You may want to draw the set and/or costume and label the details.*

2. After reading a text

Choose any production, play text, or a graphic novel.

After reading/watching, identify the main conflict in the text/production. Then, write about any contemporary situation(s) that have the same conflict explaining how they mirror the conflict within the text/production.

History has a way of repeating itself. Write about this with reference to the text.

- Then, think of other plays, books, or films with historical settings.
- What is the effect on modern audiences/readers of setting a work of art in the past?

3. Your own dramatic work

If you were to devise a drama performance on an aspect of your life what would you explore?

- Consider characters, key scenes, the central themes and a performance style that would communicate your story.
- Conduct some research on the performance style/s that you think would be most suitable as a vehicle for your story. Examples of styles include:
Physical theatre styles – start with Kabuki, Noh or Commedia Dell' Arte – Elizabethan theatre, Naturalism, Epic theatre, eclectic theatre, Theatre of the Oppressed.