



# OCR A Level Drama and Theatre

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Mrs Downie

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*“The study of drama equips the student with the tools they need to tell an effective story- and so stir emotion and reflection in an audience. This skill is absolutely invaluable regardless of what vocation a person decides to pursue as a career. This is because we all to some degree need to influence others in order to be successful in a competitive world.”*

OCR’s A Level in Drama and Theatre has been designed to be a practical, engaging and creative specification for learners to study. Students do not have to have studied GCSE Drama to choose this subject at A level. A Level in Drama and Theatre provides a fantastic curriculum to ignite and engage learners’ creativity, passion and interests.

## **4 components**

Devising – Practitioners in Practice

Exploring and Performing texts– external visiting examiner

Analysing performance – 2 plays – Written exam

Deconstructing texts – Written exam

A Level Drama & Theatre will help create independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision makers – all personal attributes that can make them stand out as they progress through their education and into employment and this is where your journey begins.....We have set you a number of tasks on the following slides that will help prepare you for starting this exciting course with us.

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Mrs K Downie

## An introduction: *Practitioners –a good place to start*



**Constantin Stanislavski**



**Bertolt Brecht**

These two theatre practitioners are the most famous in the world. You may well have heard of them and their methods before. Practitioners are a key feature in the A level Drama and Theatre course. It would be a really good idea to research these two key men in the world of theatre and make some notes about what theatre was like at their time and how their work influenced others and still does today.



# Task 1



- A key part of the Drama A level is to analyse the work of others.
- One great thing to come out of lockdown is theatre companies have released live theatre for us to watch from the comfort of our own homes!
- So that is exactly where you are going to start!
- The performance that I am going to ask you to watch is written by John Godber as is called 'Teechers', and I haven't spelt it wrong it is supposed to be spelt this way!
- You should really try and imagine as you watch it that you are in the auditorium, even have your popcorn ready!
- However before we take you to the theatre, we will also do some background research on the play and on the theatre company. So that is **TASK ONE : We would like you to research the following:**
  - **The playwright : John Godber**
  - **The play: 'Teechers'**
  - **The Theatre company: Blackeyed theatre Company.**  
<http://user52571.vs.easily.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Teechers-Education-Pack.pdf> This is a brilliant Education pack made by the theatre company.



## Task 2



- Now you are going to grab your note pad and pen and set ready to watch the performance that you have researched.
- You will need to create notes that will be sent to us. These can be bullet points and should be under sub headings when completed please send them to [kdo@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:kdo@suttcold.bham.sch.uk) 😊
- ACTORS
- MUSIC
- COSTUME
- SET
- LIGHTING
- KEY Moments ( x4)
- KEY DIRECTORIAL DECISIONS – messages and themes communicated.

Here is the link:

<https://vimeo.com/410200936/d4ae14fc31>

Task 3 – This is a number of small tasks that runs over the next few slides and focuses on voice.

A key part of drama is analysing others.....



Here are all the things to  
remember when writing  
about VOICE!

**EAT PPP's They're Very good for you**

**EMPHASIS**

**ACCENT**

**ZONE**

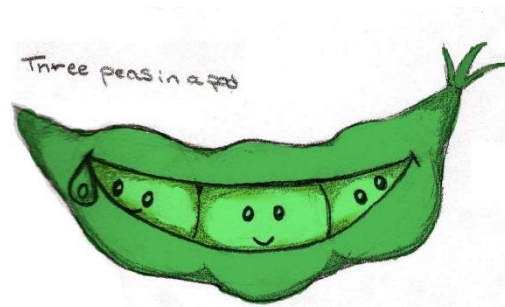
**PITCH**

**PACE**

**PAUSE**

**TEMPO**

**VOLUME**





# THE CURIOUS INCIDENT

OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME





# CURIOUS INCIDENT

In the scene where Christopher discovers Wellington the dog dead with a garden fork through him he is met by Mrs Shears who thinks he has killed Wellington. The actress playing Mrs Shears uses an **angry tone** and a **west country accent** to deliver the line, "Get away from my dog!" This shows she is shocked and that she thinks Christopher did it. She raises the and says the same line twice and. In addition to this she raises the **pitch tempo** the second time showing she's distressed and disgusted.

When the policeman arrives he asks Christopher, "Did you kill the dog?" He uses an **authoritative and accusatory tone** Christopher responds with "I did not kill the dog". He says this in a **forceful and honest tone emphasising the word 'Not'** showing he is offended at being accused. When the policeman orders Christopher to get in the police car he says, "if you try any of that monkey-business again, you little shit, I am going to seriously lose my rag. Is that understood?" he leaves a **pause** just before the last sentence. This emphasises that he is serious and it also increases the tension.





### **TASK 3 (A)**

Watch the clip from Fawlty Towers on the.

There are subtitles which will be helpful. When you have finished watching, write a detailed passage ( Task 3 A) describing how John Cleese (playing Basil Fawlty) uses his voice to communicate his character to the audience. **You will need to consider:**

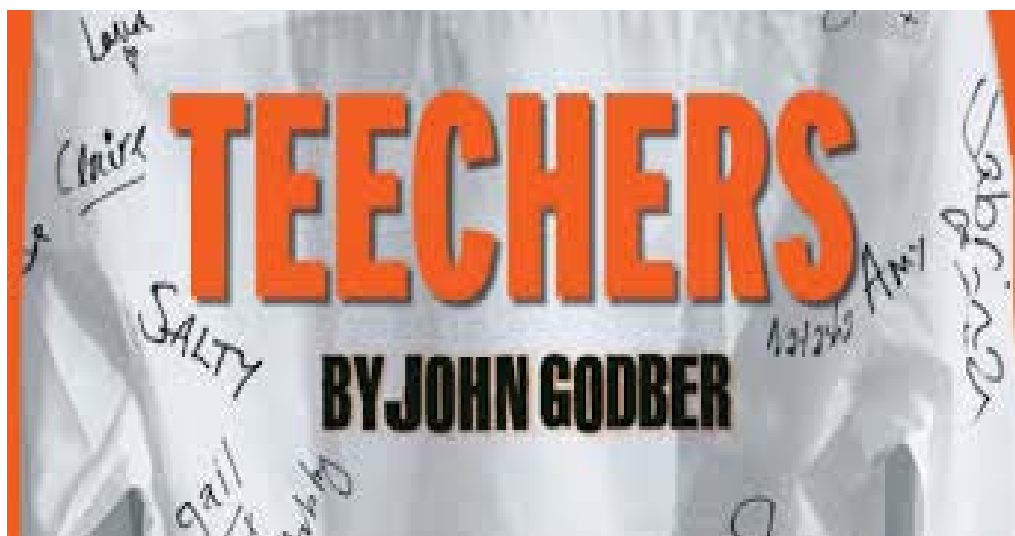
- character motivation
- relationships
- mood and atmosphere

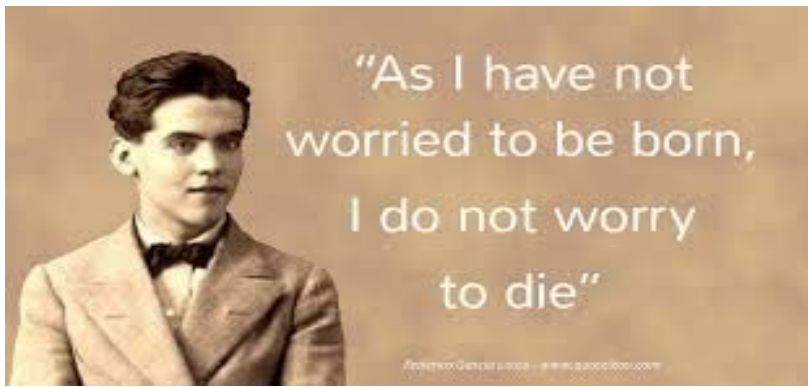
<https://youtu.be/FIE47GckHRA>



## Task 3 (B)

- We would now like you to go back to the performance that you watched of 'Teechers'.
- We would like you to choose a key actor and analyse how effectively they used their voice in a key moment.
- We would like you to write a detailed analysis of this in approximately 250 words.
- You should attempt to use the key vocabulary for voice covered in a previous slide.
- You should then send this to [kdo@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:kdo@suttcold.bham.sch.uk)





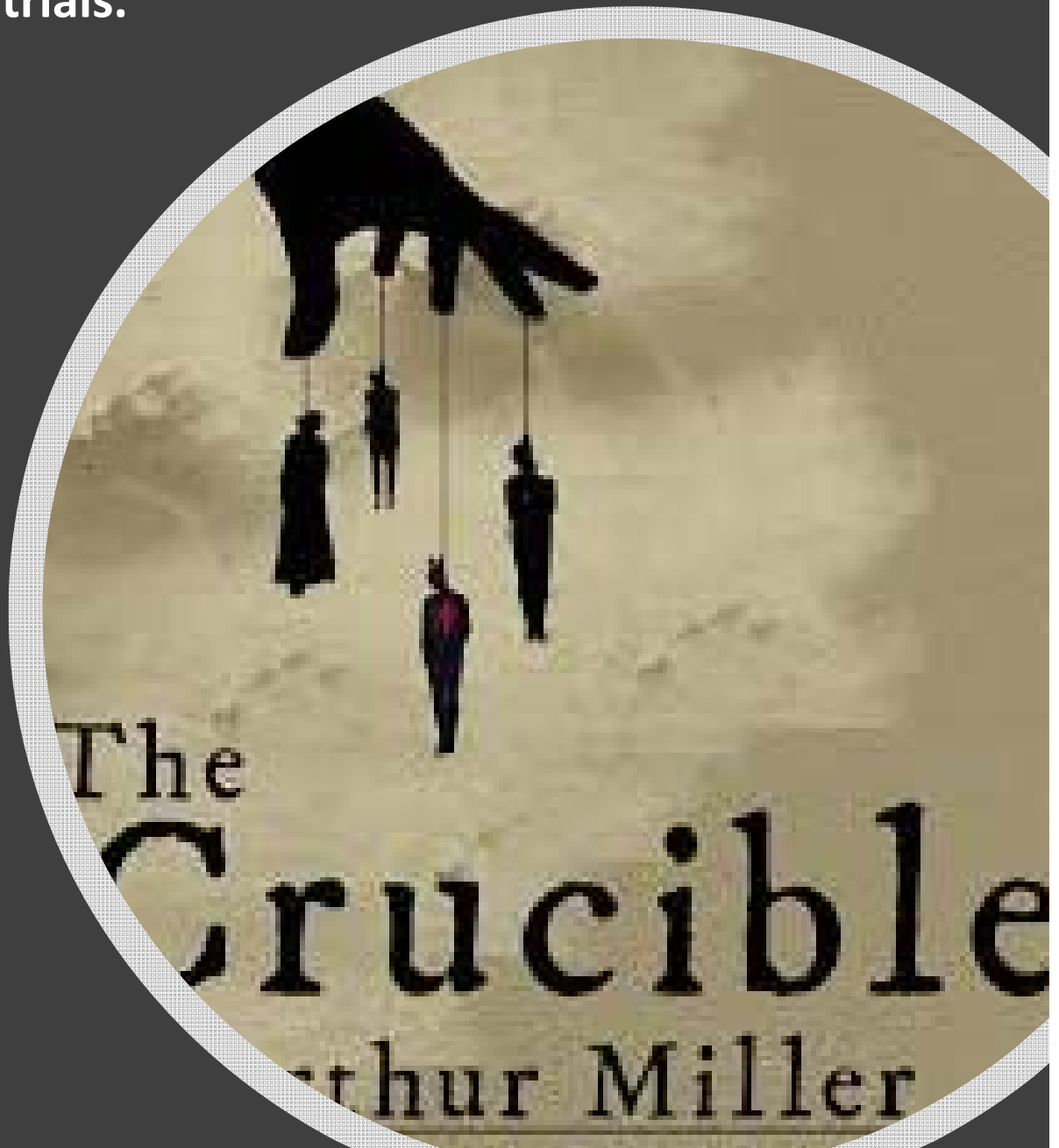
## Task 4

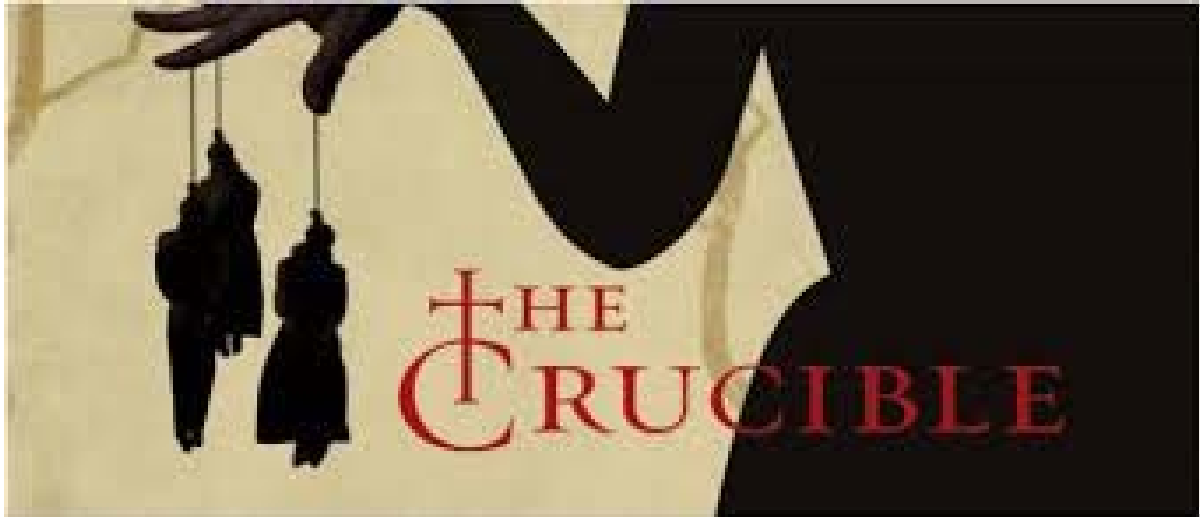
- Analysing texts is a key area of the A level Drama course.
- One of the texts that you will study is 'The house of Bernard Alba' by Federico Lorca.
- It is crucial that you know the background context of any play that you study.
- We would therefore like you to research Federico Lorca in detail and record all of your findings.
- When did he write his plays? Where is he from? What was happening politically at the time that he wrote this play?
- What are the key themes of 'The House of Bernard Alba'.



# The Crucible by Arthur Miller

- This will be one of the key texts you will study at A-level Drama. It is a great idea for you to start becoming familiar with the context and key themes.
- The historical context is extremely exciting as it was set in Salem during the well known period of witch trials.





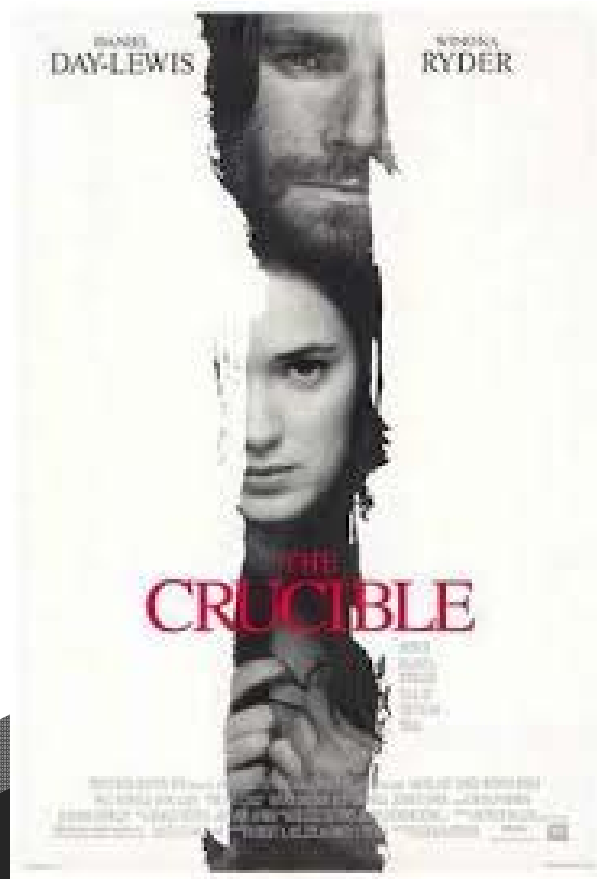
## Task 5

A great place to start is to gather some general knowledge and complete some research on this text. In your lessons we will read the script and bring it to life in order to structure your individual directorial visions. How you would direct every theatrical element.

Complete a creative A4 Document exploring the points below.

- The plot of 'The Crucible'. A rough understanding of the storyline and what the play is about.
- Arthur Miller – why did he write the play? when did he write it. Any background information on the playwright.
- The historical context – This text is set in the time of the Salem Witch trials. Why is this period of history so famous?



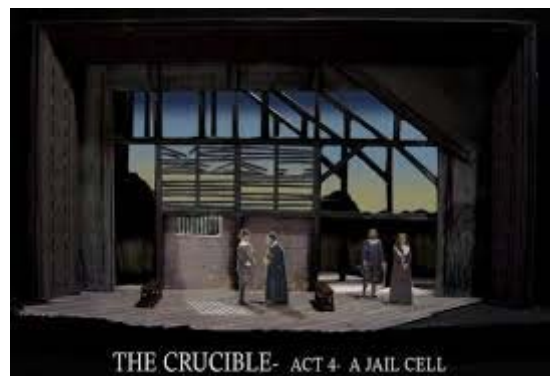


## Task 6

- In lessons we will be reading through the Crucible as a group.
- Watch the 1996 version of 'The Crucible' from this link. The screenplay was adapted by Arthur Miller himself.
- You can watch it for free on Youtube.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FCR4blZtjvc>

# The Crucible

- The Crucible is broken down to four acts. They all have different settings.
- Act One – Bettys Bedroom
- Act Two – The Proctors living room
- Act Three – The Courtroom
- Act Four – Salem Jail Cell.



# Task Seven – Mood Board

- A mood board is a creative way to display all your ideas and options for your vision. It can be made up of images, magazine cut outs, newspaper, sketches drawings and annotations to justify decisions.
- Create a mood board for each Act displayed in the previous slide. Research the set and how you could create it to support the original conditions written by the playwright.





## Task Eight - Characters

- There are a lot of characters introduced in Act One. It is important to have a strong understanding of the character and the part they play in the plot.
- Create a Role on the Wall for each of the following characters.
- Remember inside the role on the wall is feelings, outside is facts about the character.



- Abigail Williams
- Parris
- John Proctor
- Elizabeth Proctor
- Judge Hawthorne
- Danforth
- Mary Warren
- Rebecca Nurse
- Giles Corey

