

### Activity: Preparing for drama – know the discourse

A dramatic text is written so that it can be performed on stage to a live listening and viewing audience. Therefore, as readers, we must consider how the text will appear in performance.

Convention	Technical terms related to drama conventions
costumes	period contemporary minimal realistic
props	symbolic realistic objects set design
stage directions	on-set off-set front of stage upstage/downstage stage left/right
lighting	blackout fade spotlight colour wash high/low key
sound	music sound effects (SFX) soundscape silence/lack of sound
style and form	minimalistic symbolic naturalistic realistic abstract
movement	energy gait expression posture proxemics
dialogue	monologue soliloquy accent inflection diction
vocal technique	articulation tone accent projection pace

### Activity: Creating the set

Select the exposition from a play you have studied this year. Read through the stage directions, regarding details of the set and important properties. Draw your own version of the set, including all the exits, furniture, visual properties and, where possible, lighting.

As you place each part of the set, think about your audience. Where are they sitting? What can they see? What kind of stage is being used? When the set is complete, consider whether there is room for your characters to move both on and off stage.

What you have created is a physical representation of a set, which should clearly demonstrate the practicalities of performance. Does it answer what the author wanted to be included and how it would work to create background, build understanding and set a distinct mood or feeling about the play's beginning?