

## Knowledge Organiser

### Year 9 Drama

#### Term 1 – Performance from text

#### Vocalisation

- **Tone** - harsh, aggressive, calm, soft
- **Pitch** – deep, light, shrill
- **Pace** – fast, slow
- **Volume** – loud, quiet, whispered, booming

#### Conventions of theatre

**Stage directions** – written in a script to explain how a play should be performed.

In **older plays**, stage directions are mainly used to tell the performers when to enter and exit the stage. In contrast, many **modern playwrights** write extremely detailed stage directions to describe things. Some playwrights choose to use very few stage directions to give the **director** the freedom to adapt these plays to suit their own ideas.

#### Physicalisation

- **Gesture** – open, closed, relaxed, uptight
- **body language** – cautious, defensive, smooth, awkward
- **facial expression** – surprised, puzzled, angry, thoughtful

#### Narrators

Some plays use narrators to give the audience extra information – it's also a common way of **breaking the fourth wall**. If someone comments on the action without taking part, they're a third person narrator. Many third person narrators are **omniscient** (all knowing) so they are able to tell the audience what the characters are thinking. Greek tragedies often use multiple third-person narrators to provide extra information – these are known as the **chorus**

*The general term for lines spoken between characters is dialogue but there are other types of speech:*

A **DUOLOGUE** – when two characters have a conversation together

A **MONOLOGUE** – when a character makes a speech to another character or the audience

A **SOLILOQUY** – when a character shares their feelings and emotions in their mind to the audience.

An **ASIDE** – When a character makes a comment to another character, or the audience, but the rest of the characters on stage can't hear them.