

Year 8 - Drama - Topic: Living Art Project



A devised, explorative group piece of drama based upon one of two paintings. Either **'Luncheon of the Boating Party' by Renoir** (an Impressionist artist,) or **'A Sunday on La Grande Jatte' by Seurat** (a post-Impressionist artist.) Students explore context, tableau and thought tracking in role, as well as deepening their use of vocals, physical skills, characterisation and scripting.

What is tableau(x)?

Tableau is the technique which focuses on a specific instant in time in a performance. It marks a moment, allowing the actors to capture the actions, reactions and personalities of their character in minute detail within a freeze frame.

What is a thought-track?

A thought-track is where a character shares their inner thoughts out loud for the audience. This allows the storyline/plot to progress or adds intrigue to characters, to enhance their realism.

What does given circumstance mean?

Given circumstances are a set of drama tools devised by Stanislavski, that an actor uses to determine the wider context of a character or scene. Often posed as the “who”, “when”, “where”, “why” and “how” questions, they develop an actor’s understanding of a script’s context, or help an actor to develop their character. This then allows the actor to create a more realistic performance.



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What disciplinary knowledge and key skills do I need to master in this topic?

Disciplinary knowledge	Definition
Naturalistic	An attempt to recreate real events on stage
Characterisation	Creation of a fictional character
Denouement	The final part of a play, in which the strands of the plot are drawn together, and matters are explained or resolved.

Skills to consider	Additional Links
How can I develop an effective tableau?	Tableaux - Drama Resource
How can I develop an effective thought-track?	Thought Tracking - Drama Resource
How can I create a realistic character?	STANISLAVSKI Given Circumstances (youtube.com)
How do I use my stage space effectively?	What the audience sees - Using the space - GCSE Drama Revision - WJEC - BBC Bitesize

Take it Further
Lower School Theatrical Society is an extracurricular club dedicated to taking the skills learned in the classroom further. Check the extracurricular timetable .