



A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

Subject Leader: Mrs C Bugg

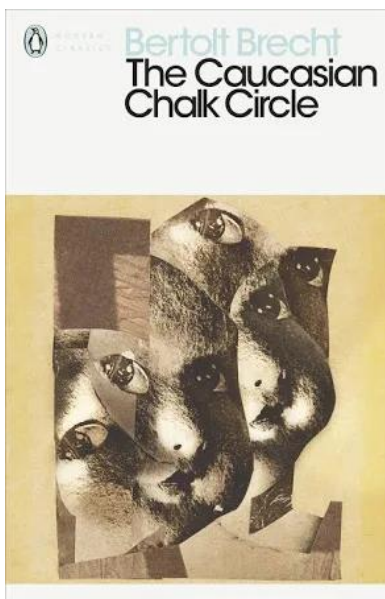
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Transition tasks

1. Purchase both texts and read Caucasian Chalk Circle:

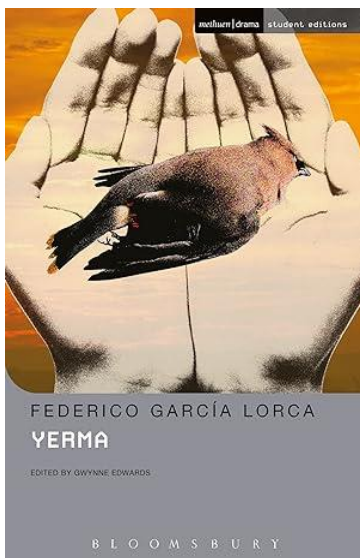
***'The Caucasian Chalk Circle'* by Bertolt Brecht.**

The Caucasian Chalk Circle (Penguin 2007, ISBN: 9780141189161)



***'Yerma'* by Federico Garcia Lorca**

Yerma (Penguin, 2009, ISBN: 0713683260)



2. Complete **detailed research** into the practitioner Bertolt Brecht and **one other theatre practitioner of your choice**. In Y12 you will choose a practitioner and, in a group, you will form a theatre company and create a devised theatre performance inspired by the work of your chosen practitioner.

- **Bertolt Brecht**
- Frantic Assembly
- Steven Berkoff
- Konstantin Stanislavski
- Alecky Blythe
- Antonin Artaud
- Mike Leigh

Research the following for each of the two practitioners:

- The artistic aims of the theatre maker/theatre company
- Details of past productions
- Social, cultural and historical influences of the theatre maker/theatre company
- Critical reviews of theatre created
- Key themes and ideas explored in the work of the theatre maker/theatre company
- Genre of the work produced
- Style and dramatic techniques and theatrical devices used in the theatre work produced

For the above research create a PowerPoint presentation or prepare a handout that will allow you to present to the class.

3. Complete **detailed contextual research** into the following areas in preparation for studying *Yerma* in September:

- Create a fact file regarding the life of Federico Garcia Lorca. You need to include information regarding his childhood, his inspirations for writing plays and information regarding his death.
- Spanish society in the 1930's
- The role of women in 1930's rural Spain
- Expressionism within Lorca's plays

You will not need to present this but will need to submit your research.

Helpful websites and YouTube links

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2015/apr/23/federico-garcia-lorca-spanish-poet-killed-orders-spanish-civil-war>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVhjwodI7X0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwk9VVF7n1s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll99nCRNoFg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ngNOtRXAqY>

Theatre Studies

A Level Drama and Theatre studies provides students with the opportunity to develop their interest and enjoyment in drama and theatre, both as participants and as informed members of an audience. The course aims to foster students' enthusiasm for and critical appreciation of the subject.

This course also aims to develop students' understanding and appreciation of the significance of social, cultural and historic influences on the development of drama and theatre. Thus, the subject links in very well with English Literature and History.

This subject is not an easy option as it demands a high degree of analysis. Much of the course is taught through practical workshops but there are some theory sessions. Students keep very detailed 'Learning Logs' where they are encouraged to reflect on and evaluate their learning so that they become confident and independent interpreters of drama and theatre.

How is A Level Theatre Studies assessed?

60% of the A-level will be assessed through non-exam assessment, 40% through a written exam.

Set plays

Students will study and explore practically **two** set plays:

The following plays represent significant drama through the ages:

- Bertolt Brecht ***The Caucasian Chalk Circle***

The following plays represent 20th and 21st century drama:

- **'Yerma' by Federico Garcia Lorca**

A Level Theatre Studies units:

Component 1: Drama and Theatre

What's assessed?

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of two set plays
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 3 hours (Open book)
- **40% of A-level**

Questions

- Section A: one question (from a choice) on one of the set plays.
- Section B: one two-part question on a given extract from one of the set plays.
- Section C: one question on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production.

Component 2: Creating Original Drama (Practical)

What's assessed?

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as a performer or director).

Devised piece must be influenced by the work and methodologies of one theatre practitioner.

How is it assessed?

- Working notebook
- Devised performance
- **30% of A-level**

This component is marked internally by Mrs Bugg and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Making Theatre (Practical)

What's assessed?

- Practical exploration and interpretation of Extract 1, 2 and 3, each taken from a published play. The methodology of a theatre practitioner must be applied to Extract 3. Extract 3 is to be performed as a final assessed piece (students may contribute as performer or director).
- Reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts.

How is it assessed?

- Performance of Extract 3 and a reflective report

- **30% of A-level**

This component is marked by AQA external examiner.