# Year 8 Drama Knowledge Organiser
## Melodrama

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Word / Drama Skill</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENRE</td>
<td>A type of performance that can be defined by specific key features and audience response</td>
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<tr>
<td>MELODRAMA</td>
<td>A theatrical genre in popular in the Victorian era. Literal translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>STOCK CHARACTERS</td>
<td>The term given to the stereotypical characters in Melodrama</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEIGHTENED ACTING STYLE</td>
<td>An exaggerated and over the top way of acting</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLAPSTICK</td>
<td>A comedic routine that uses humour and heightened acting to make the audience laugh</td>
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<tr>
<td>MELODRAMA ROUTINE</td>
<td>A stock (typical) narrative (Villain takes advantage of Victim, Hero saves the day!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOOP DIALOGUE</td>
<td>Over the top dialogue that accompanies a melodrama routine; repeated 3 times with increased exaggeration</td>
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### Features and Conventions of Melodrama

- *Melodrama* = Music (Melody) + Acting (Drama)
- *Melodrama* is a style of theatre created in the late 1800s (also referred to as Victorian Era)
- It was a form of comedy for Victorian audiences
- Music used to underscore the acting
- Exaggerated Acting and Characterisation
- Humour and Comedy
- Stock Characters – Clear Villain, Victim and Hero
- Stock Routine – Villain takes advantage of a Victim with a scheming plot, the Hero saves the day and rescues the Victim

### Subject Specific Vocabulary Spellings

- Theatre
- Performer
- Performance
- Audience
- Role
- Facial Expressions
- Gesture
- Dialogue
- Theatrical
- Genre