

Year 8 Drama Knowledge Organiser

Semiotics in Performance

Semiotics Definition:

Semiotics are the sign and symbols on stage that create meaning for the audience. Every element on stage has a specific meaning and is an intentional artistic decision. The audience interpret these signs and symbols to develop their understanding and interpretation of the performance.

Lighting	Used to create mood and atmosphere Used to establish time of day/location Used to 'mark the moment'	A red light can infer danger A blue light can infer isolation A bright, orange (warm) light can infer daytime A blue light can create a nighttime effect A spotlight can highlight an important part of the stage A lighting change can suggest a change in scene/used for cross cutting
Sound	Used to establish context (location/time of day) Used to create environment/atmosphere	The sound of birds can infer outside/daytime Industrial sounds can create a working city environment Police sirens can suggest crime/danger Blowing wind, howling wolves can create a feeling of danger at night
Use of Space and Levels	Used to communicate relationships Used to communicate status	Two actors stood close together might suggest a close relationship. The actors would use gestures and body language to further develop meaning of the semiotic An actor at a higher level could determine imposing status/increased importance
Props and Costume	Used to indicate role/character	Character uniforms can establish role/age/function