



## Drama Year 7 Home Learning Task

### PANTOMIME



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Given out: Monday 2 December      Hand in: Monday 9 December

Staff Comment

Target

Parent/carer comment

# JUST A MINUTE

## THE BRIEF

Your task for this week is to prepare a **One Minute Presentation** on the topic of **Pantomime**.

What will you be learning?

- You will be learning about the theatrical tradition of pantomime - this is a uniquely British cultural experience (although it has been taken up by other nations) and it is the interactive Christmas plays that we are focusing on.
- You will also be learning to prepare and put on a timed presentation - this is important in all aspects of work where you will have to present to an audience. The timed element is especially important in the world of business where you might encounter giving timed pitches for products.
- Oracy - You need to be able to speak clearly and slowly in your presentation.

What will you need to do?

- Prepare your speech- I am not looking for you to write down a minute speech and read it out. However, a written list of bullet points will help you structure your speech. You can then speak about each bullet point in turn.
- Research - this booklet contains lots of information on pantomime but additional research online is really important as it will give you a unique and more interesting presentation.

To really 'Wow!' me...

- Try to find out something about pantomime that even I don't know... be careful though - make sure it is the interactive Christmas show as pantomime in other countries often refers to traditional mime and circus skills.
- Have a Power Point to support your presentation - but don't just read from the Power Point as it won't give you a fluid and confident presentation.

#### TO HELP

- Read through this booklet as it has lots of facts about pantomime to help.
- Use the following websites to find out more:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pantomime>

<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Pantomime/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/2JZ6TSqnd480n90dzN77r1Q/where-does-pantomime-really-come-from>

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/t/pantomime-origins/>

- Look at the next page for ideas on things you can talk about in your presentation.

TASK ONE - Tutor Reading... Read the following information. This information will allow you to answer the questions in the rest of the booklet that can be used for planning your speech.

### Research Information

**Pantomime:** The word derives from the Greek word for actor. The term is used to describe a musical comedy that is unique to the British Isles (although through colonisation and travel it has spread throughout Australia, Canada, Jamaica, South Africa, India, Ireland, Gibraltar and Malta).

**Early Pantomime:** Pantomimes first started as a way to entertain audiences during the acts of an opera. As the scene changes could take a long time, short comical performances were put on during these scene changes. Modern pantomime was first used as a performance in its own right during the late 1800s.

**Pantomime Traditions:** There are lots of traditions which pantomimes follow. The most famous of these is that pantomimes are performed during the Christmas period.

The stories of pantomimes are usually based upon famous fairy tales: Sleeping Beauty, Jack and The Beanstalk, Dick Whittington.

There are also **stock characters**. This means the same types of characters appear in every play (although names will change). These characters are:

- **Principal Boy:** This is the name for the hero of the story, traditionally the principal boy is played by a girl; however, this is becoming less popular. One play which still has a female principal boy is 'Peter Pan'.
- **Principal Girl:** The heroine (female hero) of the story.
- **Dame:** A man dressed as a woman. The dame character is there to interact with the audience and should be the most comic role.
- **The Villain:** Every pantomime needs a good baddy!
- **Sidekicks:** Heroes and villains often have sidekicks. These are comic characters who are usually a bit stupid.

Another important tradition is **audience participation**. This means that in a pantomime it is expected that the audience joins in. Famous examples of this would be; booing the villain, saying "oh yes it is!" if a character says "oh no it isn't" (and vice versa), and joining in with a good old sing-song towards the end!

**Music** may be original but is more likely to combine well-known tunes with re-written lyrics. At least one "audience participation" song is traditional: one half of the audience may be challenged to sing 'their' chorus louder than the other half.

The good fairy enters from stage right (from the audience's point of view this is on the left) and the villain enters from stage left (right from the point of view of the audience). This convention goes back to the medieval mystery plays, where the right side of the stage symbolized Heaven and the left side symbolized Hell.

You can use the questions on the next 2 pages to help structure your presentation. All the answers to the first questions are in this booklet. The second questions might need additional research.

1. What is a pantomime?

2. Which side of the stage does the villain enter from? Why is this?

3. What gender is the actor who plays the principal boy? Why is this?

4. What sort of stories are pantomimes usually based upon?

5. When are pantomimes traditionally performed? Is there a reason for this?

6. Pantomimes were first used to cover scene changes in what type of performance?

7. What does the term "stock characters" mean? Give some examples of stock characters.

9. Give some examples of traditional audience interaction you would find in a Pantomime. (eg- 'Oh yes it is, oh no it isn't')

