

KAMO HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

“No, no, a thousand times no!”

Supports internal assessment for:

Achievement Standard: 90999 v1

Select and use features of a drama/theatre form in a performance

Credits: 4

(optional) Supports external assessment for:

Achievement Standard: 90998 v1

Demonstrate understanding of features of a drama/theatre form

Credits: 4

Student Instructions Sheet

Your teacher will introduce you to the theatre form melodrama and its popularity in the 19th century. Key features of melodrama will be discussed, identified in relation to a melodrama text and put into practice through exploration of exercises and playing out of the text.

You will then work in groups of 4-5 to rehearse and present your own melodrama using key features of melodrama.

You will need to keep your own record of your working plans, in your portfolio, for assessment purposes.

This activity will take place over a five week period and involve class and out of class time. Your teacher will give you clear instructions about the time and place for your assessment and the time for the preparation work. You will also be given clear guidelines for the available resources that you will require throughout the assessment.

Assessment Schedule and Judgement Statements

Achieved with Excellence	Achieved with Merit	Achieved
Select and use effectively features of a drama/theatre form in a performance.	Select and use skilfully features of a drama/theatre form in a performance.	Select and use features of a drama/theatre form in a performance.
<i>The villain presents a cohesive, physical performance demonstrating a series of techniques to create audience reaction and participation. The villain twirls his moustache, uses his cape like a matador and uses stock phrases that are chilling and threatening. He captures the essence of the character.</i>	<i>The villain uses costume, asides, gesture, entrances, exits voice and audience reaction effectively. He has a clear sense of the character and is full of evil demands. He revels in the boos and hisses from the audience.</i>	<i>The villain uses costume, asides and gestures appropriately and makes evil demands on the heroine. His voice is slow and threatening and he conveys a sense of the character.</i>

Detailed task instructions

Task 1 Exploring the form

Your teacher will explain the theatre form melodrama and its historical context.

KEY FEATURES

- a) STRONG CHARACTERS, STEREOTYPES
- b) GOOD TRIUMPHING OVER EVIL
- c) USE OF MUSIC TO HEIGHTEN THE EMOTIONS OF THE AUDIENCE
- d) FAST PACE, LOTS OF ACTION
- e) THE IDEA OF TIME RUNNING OUT
- f) SIMPLE STORY LINES
- g) ROMANTIC LOVE (*often the cause of strife*)
- h) HAPPY ENDINGS
- i) AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*cue cards for hissing, booing and cheering, asides to include audience participation*)
- j) EXAGGERATED ACTING STYLE, e.g. swooning, gasping, striking a pose.
- k) VISUAL SPECTACLE

You will then be introduced to a number of melodrama texts provided by your teacher.

You will be expected to carry out some class and independent exploration into aspects of the style, using the text as a basis for study and trialling. You should identify key features of melodrama and record them in your portfolio. Note that this needs to be in your own words and not merely copied from teacher notes or researched information. This recording may be in the form of a chart or bullet points with examples.

Task 2 Planning for the features in action

In groups, you will rehearse and present an excerpt from one of the melodramas provided. Your aim should be to show that you understand features of the form and can put them into practice. The finished length in presentation should be 5-10 minutes.

The melodrama could be set in a modern or historical context as long as key features of melodrama are evident. Key features could include the following:

- stereotypical characters
- exaggerated story lines
- the theme of good triumphing over evil
- emphasis on action and sensation
- romantic love -often the cause of strife
- sentiment - much evident emotion such as grief, horror, despair, greed, envy
- audience participation encouraged by cue cards and speaking directly to the audience
- exaggerated acting style e.g. gasps, swooning, striking poses.

- (a) Discuss choices and availability of props, costumes, music, make-up, sound and set. Record these choices in your portfolio, describing clearly and explaining how each can be seen to be a feature of melodrama. You could record this work through annotated sketches and diagrams or in chart form.
- (b) Annotate your script to show your understanding/reasons for the selection of the features of Melodrama. If the features are not all present, you should comment on what they are and, potentially, why they are absent.

Task 3 Rehearsal – the features in action

As you are rehearsing your play, refer to your annotation. Share your work with others to give and receive audience feedback.

While rehearsing, you may wish to make changes to the drama. Make sure that any changes you make clearly reflect the theatre form of melodrama. Record these changes and comment on how they allow you to select and use the features of melodrama.

It is especially important to note how you, yourself, select and use the features of melodrama in the performance of the drama.

- How are you communicating your individual knowledge and understanding of melodrama to an audience?
- What makes your role different from other roles in the melodrama?
- What would the audience learn about the status and personality and mannerisms of your melodrama role from your performance?

Task 4 Presentation

Perform your melodrama to the invited audience.

You must be clearly seen to be using the features of melodrama in your performance.

Task 5 Reflection

Record in your portfolio answers to the following:

- What was the audience reaction to your play?
- Did your play appropriately reflect key features of melodrama? How did it achieve or not achieve that?
- Did you, in your role, appropriately select and use the key features of melodrama? Give some specific examples to support your answer. You might mention costume, status, use of voice/ gesture/ movement/ relationship with the audience.
- On reflection, would you have made any changes to your selection and use of the features of melodrama? If so, what changes would you make, and why?

Portfolio checklist

Your Portfolio should include:

Identification of the key features of melodrama (Task 1, 2)

Annotated script including – storyline, characters, scenes – linked to explained features of melodrama – Task 2

Brief explanation of your selections and how you intend to use: props, costume, music, sound, set. – linked to explained features of melodrama – Task 2

Summary of choice of key features – Task 2, 3

Reflection – Task 5