

The Pressure Cooker is about a teenage girl named Andrea who feels a lot of pressure from school and her family. She wants to follow her dream of going to drama school, but her mum wants her to do well in exams and go to university instead.

The story shows how this pressure makes Andrea stressed and upset. She also has problems in her relationship with her boyfriend, Graham. The stress builds up so much that Andrea makes a serious decision to try to harm herself. By the end of the play, Andrea takes drastic action and her friends and family have to deal with the consequences. The play teaches us how important it is to support people under pressure and to understand mental health struggles.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time:

The story follows **Christopher Boone**, a 15-year-old boy who is very intelligent but struggles with social interactions and understanding emotions. He has a talent for math and loves solving puzzles.

The story begins when Christopher finds his neighbour's dog, **Wellington**, dead. He decides to investigate the mystery, writing down everything he discovers like a detective. As he investigates, he uncovers secrets about his own family, including the fact that his mother, who he thought was dead, is actually alive, and that his father has been dishonest with him. Christopher’s journey of discovery forces him to face challenges, take risks, and grow more independent. By the end of the story, he learns more about himself, his abilities, and the complicated world around him.

**YEAR 8
Drama KO
TERM 1**



Frantic Assembly is a theatre company that makes plays using **physical theatre**, which means they tell the story mostly through **movement, gestures, and body language** instead of just talking. Their performances are energetic, creative, and often show real-life issues, like friendship, family, or stress, in a way that is easy to understand and very visual.

VOCAL SKILLS		
	TERM	DEFINITION
V	Volume	The loudness or softness of the actor’s voice.
E	Emphasis	The stress or importance placed on a word or phrase.
T	tone	The emotions or feeling expressed in the voice.
A	accent	A distinctive way of pronouncing a language, often linked to a particular country, region, or social group
P	pitch	How high or low a voice is
P	pace	The speed of speech
P	pause	A brief moment of silence.

PHYSICAL SKILLS		
	TERM	DEFINITION
B	Body language	When an actor shows how a character is feeling by the way she places her body.
F	Facial expressions	The movement of muscles on the face to show the emotion felt by a character.
G	Gesture	Movements with the arms and hands which express meaning
P	Posture	The manner in which the spine is held
E	Eye-contact	Where the actor looks with their eyes.
G	Gait	The way a person walks

Drama techniques

Still Image: A still image is like a photograph — a frozen moment in time created using actors.

Thoughts Aloud: When a character speaks out loud what they are thinking.

Mime: Acting without words, using only **movement, gesture, and facial expression**.

Cross-cutting: where the action moves **back and forth between two or more scenes** that are happening **at the same time**.

A **monologue** is a **long speech by one character** in a play

Role-on-the-wall is where you draw a **person’s outline** on a sheet of paper or board and write **facts, feelings, thoughts, and personality traits** inside the outline. Outside the outline, you write how **other people see them**. It helps actors understand a character better.

Flashback A **scene that shows something that happened in the past**