



AC1 stagecraft vocabulary



Foundational knowledge			
1	Act		The main sub-divisions between sections of a play
2	Scene		The smaller divisions within an act of a play
3	Dialogue		The spoken text of a play delivered by actors
4	Exit/Entrances		When characters enter or leave the stage view
5	Stage directions		The text that communicates how actors should perform
6	Playwright		The author or creator of the play's text
7	Director		The creative decision-maker who translates the text to the stage
8	Costume		The clothing has symbolic meaning for the audience
9	Lighting		Lighting communicates the tone and mood changes in a scene

Play structure		
10	Exposition	
11	Climax	
12	Denouement	

Advanced knowledge			
13	Dramatic irony		An audience watching a play understands what's going on in a situation while the characters are unaware of what is happening.
14	Breaking the 4 th wall		Actors do not usually acknowledge an audience exists, however an actor might break this convention by directly addressing the audience for dramatic impact or to reinforce a message.
15	Signifier		A key prop that conveys symbolic meaning to an audience
16	Proxemics		Refers to the space between characters on stage in order to convey meaning
17	Aside		A character's dialogue is spoken but not heard by characters on stage
18	Soliloquy		An extended speech which expresses a character's inner thoughts in private on stage. A speech given to oneself
19	Monologue		Also an extended solitary speech but it could be delivered in the presence of other characters who can hear and respond to it
20	Mouthpiece		A character becomes the key messenger of an idea or value held by the playwright
21	Omniscient narrator		The narrator knows the thoughts and feelings of every character
22	Binary opposition		A pair of characters that are set in opposition to each other
23	Foreshadowing		A warning or indication of a future event