

GCSE Drama
Live Theatre Evaluation
Section C

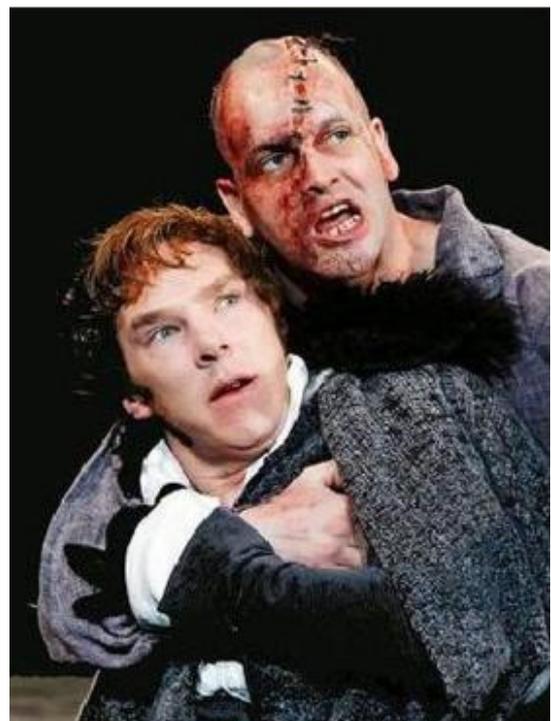


Analysing and Evaluating Acting

National Theatre Frankenstein

Research Notes	
Name of Production	Frankenstein by The National Theatre
Date of Performance	April 2023 (Recorded through National Theatre Live on 24th March 2011.)
Name of Theatre	Shown digitally in school
Synopsis	<p>Childlike in his innocence but grotesque in form, Frankenstein’s bewildered Creature is cast out into a hostile universe by his horror-struck maker. Meeting with cruelty wherever he goes, the friendless Creature, increasingly desperate and vengeful, determines to track down his creator and strike a terrifying deal.</p> <p>Urgent concerns of scientific responsibility, parental neglect, cognitive development, and the nature of good and evil are embedded within this thrilling and deeply disturbing classic gothic tale.</p> <p>The production was a sell-out hit at the National Theatre in 2011, and the broadcast has since become an international sensation, experienced by almost half a million people in cinemas around the world.</p> <p>Benedict Cumberbatch plays Victor Frankenstein and Jonny Lee Miller his creation in this performance of Danny Boyle's smash-hit production of Frankenstein.</p>
When and where is the play set?	Europe around 1818
Main Character and the actors playing them	The Creature: Jonny Lee Miller Victor Frankenstein: Benedict Cumberbatch Agatha de Lacey: Lizzie Winkler De Lacey: Karl Johnson Felix De Lacey: Daniel Millar Elizabeth Lavenza: Naomie Harris William Frankenstein: William Nye M. Frankenstein: George Harris

	<p>Clarice: Ella Smith Ewan: John Stahl Female Creature: Andreea Padurariu Constable: John Killoran Rab: Mark Armstrong Servant: Martin Chamberlain Ensemble: Josie Dexter Klaus: Steven Elliott Servant: Daniel Ings Gustav: John Killoran Gretel: Ella Smith Ensemble: Haydon Downing</p>
Director & Designers	<p>Director: Danny Boyle Playwright (stage adaption) – Nick Dear Set Designer: Mark Tildesley Costume Designer: Suttirat Anne Larlarb Lighting Designer: Bruno Poet Sound Design: Ed Clarke Music and Sound Score: Underworld Director of Movement: Toby Sedgwick, Sedgwick Creative Ltd Fight Director: Kate Waters</p>
Key Themes	<p>Scientific Responsibility Justice Conformism Social Hierarchy Nature Vs Nurture Loneliness & Solitude</p>



Drama terminology: acting

In order to write accurately about acting, you need to understand the correct terminology. Below are some useful words to help you describe and analyse what you have seen.

FACIAL EXPRESSION

Appearance of emotions, thoughts or feelings (or lack of them) through facial muscle movement or position of features, such as raised eyebrows, smile, scowl, narrowed eyes, pursed lips, gaping mouth.

VOCAL SKILLS

Techniques involving the voice, including pitch, accent, diction, volume, emphasis and tone.

Also includes: vocal projection, such as breath control and diction, to make the voice carry.

POSTURE

How a character stands, such as upright, hunched or slumped.

CHARACTERISATION

The creation of a role through the performer's understanding and portrayal of the character's background, motivations and importance in the play.

TIMING/PACE

How quickly or slowly something is said or done, including the use of pause.

DELIVERY OF LINES

How lines are said to convey their meaning. This could involve both vocal and physical skills.

USE OF STAGE SPACE

How much or little of the stage is used by the actor or actors; blocking, including use of levels and proximity.

GESTURES

Movements of parts of the body, often hand, arms or head, such as waving, nodding or reaching out.

GAIT

How the character walks: limps, stomps, shuffles, strides, plods.

EYE CONTACT

Looking directly at someone who is looking back.

EMOTIONAL RANGE

The ability to show a character's changing feelings.

INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

The relationships the actors build with each other; rapport between the performers; the proximity and movements between characters.

MOVEMENT

How the actor physically inhabits the character and travels around the stage. In some cases, this can be stylised, such as dance, lifts, or synchronised movement.

STANCE

The way the character stands, such as with feet wide apart or turned in.

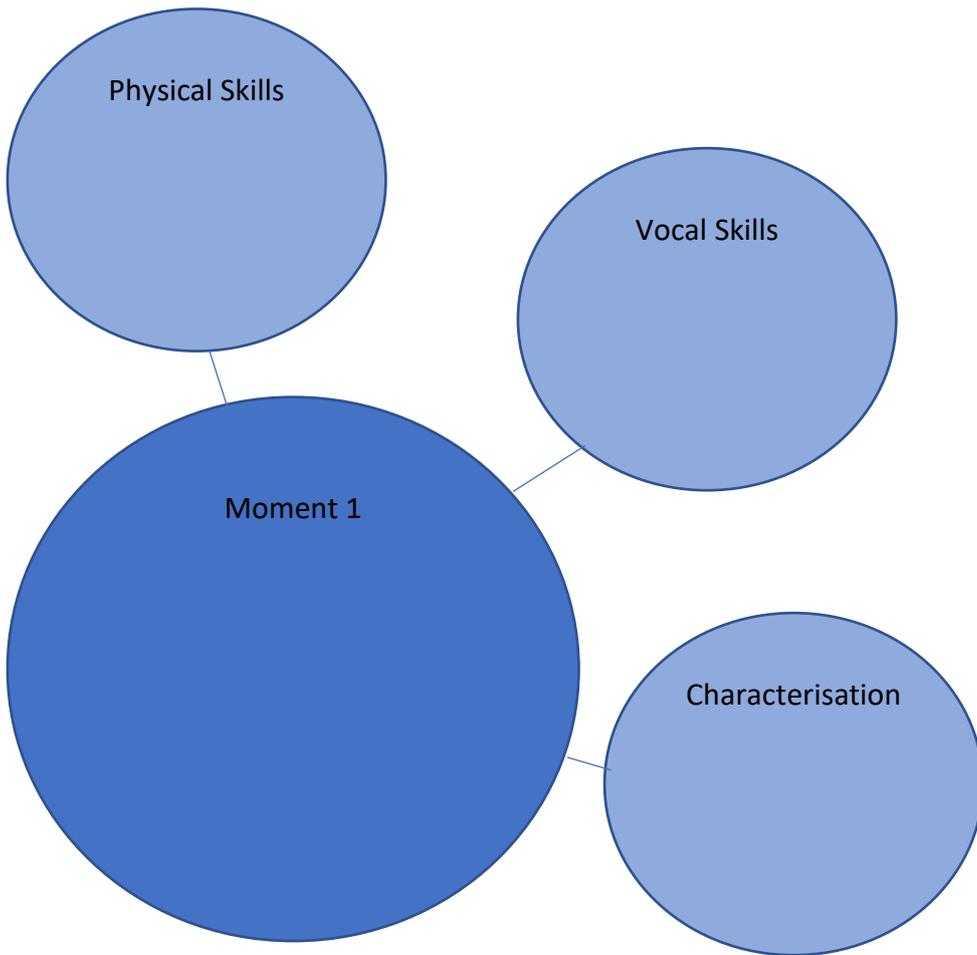
National Theatre Frankenstein

Name of Character	Briefly Describe Scene/Moment	How are Characterisation Skills Used?	The Effect on the Audience
Frankenstein			
Frankenstein			
Frankenstein			

National Theatre Frankenstein

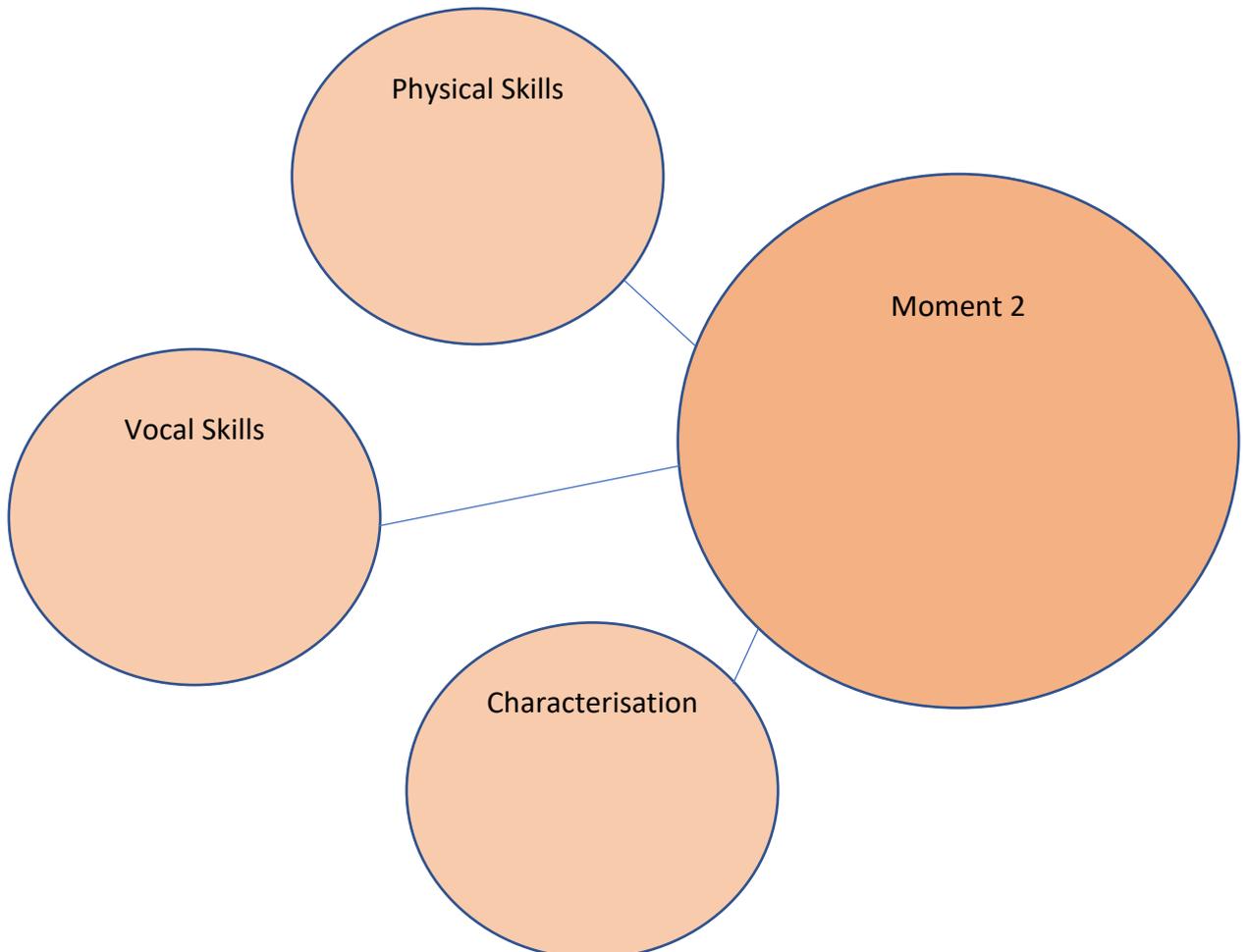
Name of Character	Briefly Describe Scene/Moment	How are Characterisation Skills Used?	The Effect on the Audience
The Creature			
The Creature			
The Creature			

Key Acting Moments - Frankenstein

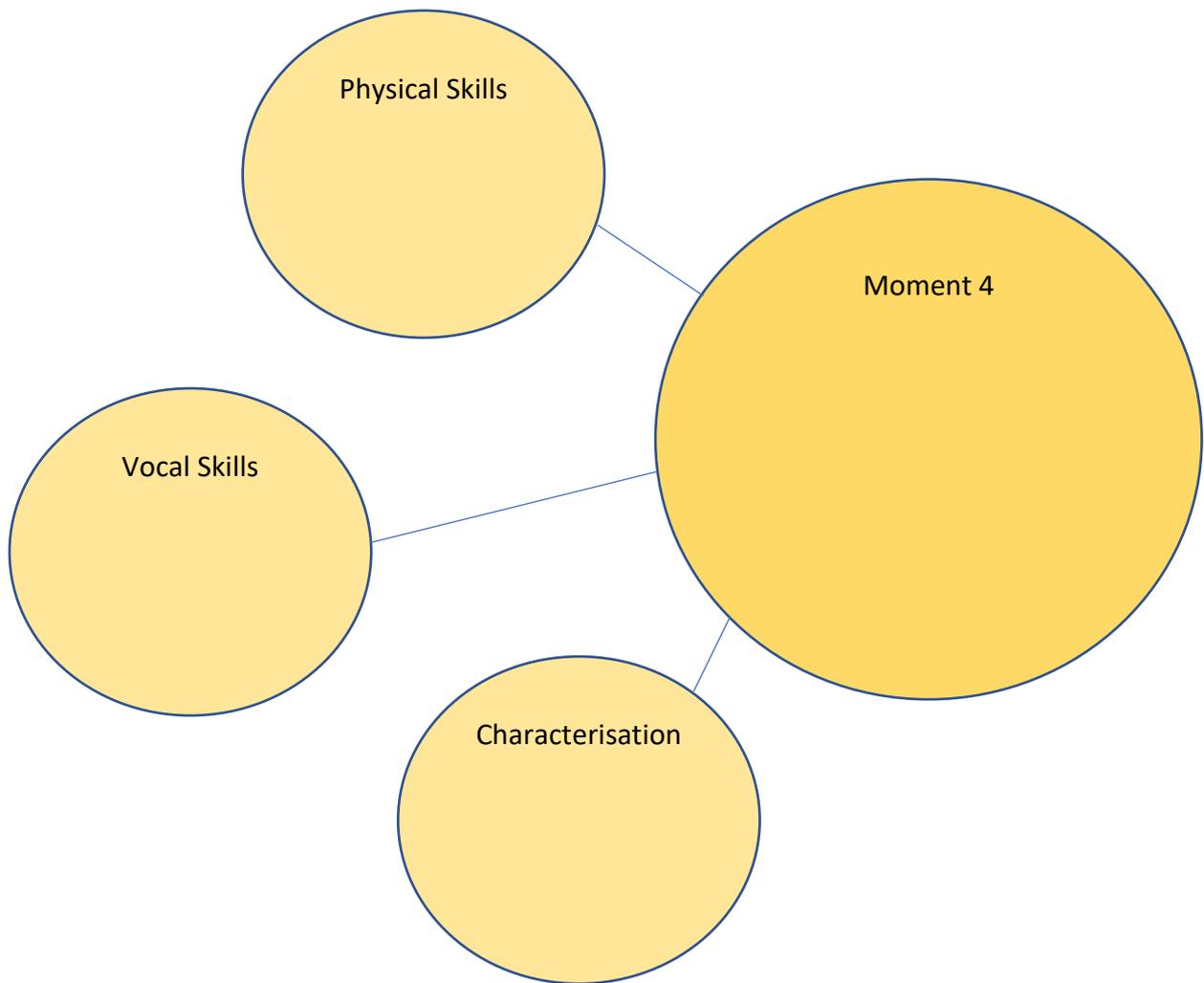


Notice how the actors:

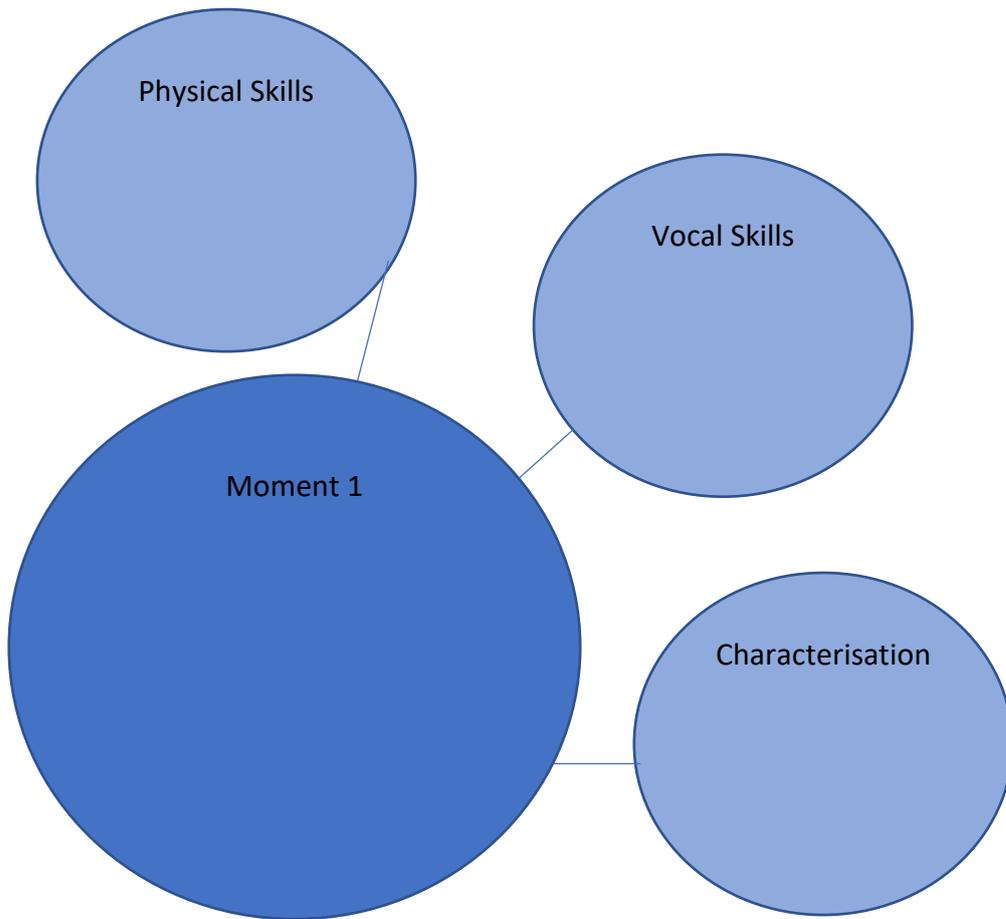
- Stand
- Walk
- Make other movements
- Use their voices
- Make other sounds
- Interact with each other or the audience
- Use the stage space and furniture
- Handle props



Key Acting Moments - Frankenstein

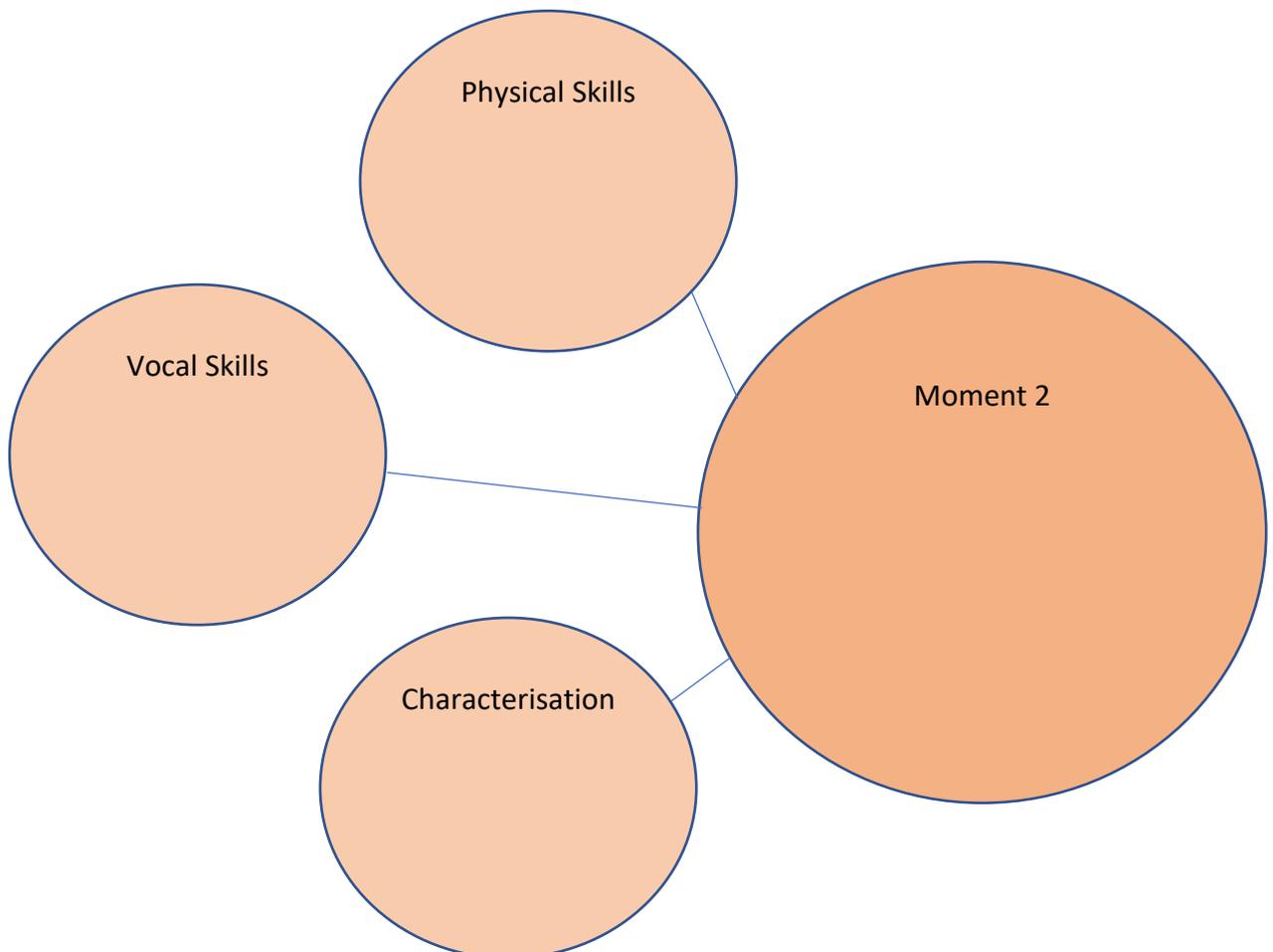


Key Acting Moments – The Creature

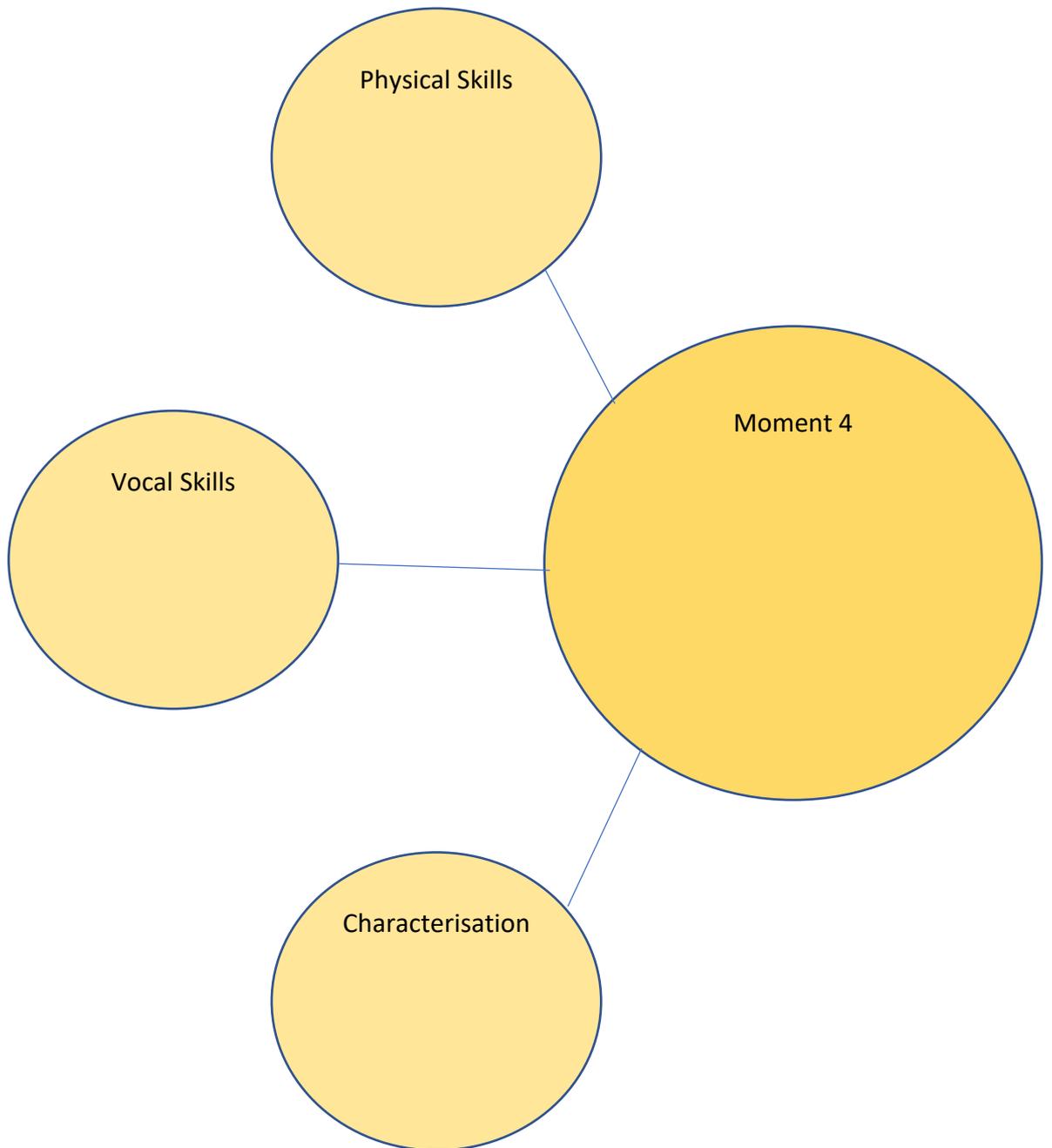


Notice how the actors:

- Stand
- Walk
- Make other movements
- Use their voices
- Make other sounds
- Interact with each other or the audience
- Use the stage space and furniture
- Handle props



Key Acting Moments – The Creature



Performance evaluation

Beyond describing and analysing the performance you must evaluate it, considering whether or not it was effective and successful. This means doing more than just writing that it was 'good' or 'bad' or 'funny' or 'sad.' Think about the following:

Did the performance fulfil its purpose?

For example, if an actor was meant to represent a person of particular circumstances (age, nationality, background), were they successful?

Was the performance technically accomplished?

Did the actor meet the physical and vocal demands of the part?

Did the performance engage and interest the audience?

For example, were there moments that were surprising or moving or exciting?

Did the performance contribute to the mood and atmosphere?

For example, if the role was meant to be comic or frightening, did the performance achieve that?

Did the performance help you to understand the characters?

For example, if the characters were meant to be wealthy or careless, did the actors represent that?

Did the performance support the themes of the play?

For example, if the play was about poverty or injustice, did the performance convey that?

Analysing and Evaluating Set Design

Drama terminology: set

In order to write accurately about set design, you need to understand the correct terminology. Below are some useful words to help you describe and analyse what you have seen.

FLIES

The space above the stage, usually out of view of the audience, used to store or to lower ('fly') items onto the stage.

FLY SYSTEM

A means of raising and lowering scenery or other items onto the stage using a system of ropes and pulleys. To lower scenery from this area is to 'fly a set in'.

WINGS / WING SPACE

An area to the side of the stage from which actors can enter and from which props, furnishings or scenery can be moved onto the stage.

BACKDROP

A large painted cloth hung, usually at the back of the stage, as part of the scenery.

SCRIMS OR GAUZE

Curtains that might hang loose or be mounted on a frame, which, if lit a certain way, are transparent.

BOX SET

A setting of a complete room, often naturalistic, with three walls and a 'missing' fourth wall facing the audience.

FLOOR COVERINGS

Any covering of the stage floor, such as a wooden effect to appear like floorboards, or linoleum for a kitchen floor.

FLAT

A piece of scenery, often painted, mounted on a tall frame.

SET DRESSINGS

Items on the set not used as props, but which create detail and interest, such as vases or framed paintings.

DRAPES

Curtains or other hanging fabric.

FURNISHINGS

Furniture on the set, such as chairs, cushions and tables.

RAMPS

Sloped pathways which may be used for walking on or for wheeled transportation.

PLATFORM

A raised area on the stage.

TRAPDOOR

A door in the floor or ceiling of a stage allowing objects or performers to be dropped, lifted or lowered.

APRON

An area at the front of proscenium stages which is still visible to the audience when the curtains are closed.

PROJECTION

A film or still image projected to form a theatrical backdrop.

PROPS

Moveable items on the stage, including hand props that the actors can carry, including books, cups and phones.

CYCLORAMA

A large semi-circular stretched curtain or screen, usually positioned upstage. It often depicts a background, such as the sky.

REVOLVE

A large turntable device that can be turned to reveal a different setting.

STAIRS

Steps from one level of the set to another. In some productions grand staircases are a design feature.

TRUCK

A platform on wheels upon which scenery can be mounted and moved.

SCAFFOLDING

A large structure, usually of boards and metal poles, which creates different levels on a set.

Set Design Notes – Example 1

Brief Description of Scene:

Use the chart below to make notes on the set in the show you saw.

Set design notes		Draw a basic sketch.
Production		
Type of set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Naturalistic? ▶ Minimalist? ▶ Stylised? ▶ Fantasy? ▶ Period? ▶ Contemporary? 	
Size, scale and positioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How big is the stage space and the scenery? ▶ Where key items are placed on the stage? ▶ Where are entrances and exits? 	
Colours and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What are the main colours used? ▶ Are the walls and fabrics plain or patterned? ▶ What is used in the set construction: fabrics, wood, plastic, metal and so on? 	
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Drapes or curtains? ▶ Flats? ▶ Backdrops? ▶ Cyclorama? ▶ Bare wall? 	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Platforms? ▶ Scaffolding? ▶ Ramps? ▶ Stairs? 	
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Projections? ▶ Multimedia? 	

Set Design Notes – Example 2

Brief Description of Scene:

Use the chart below to make notes on the set in the show you saw.

Set design notes		Draw a basic sketch.
Production		
Type of set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Naturalistic? ▶ Minimalist? ▶ Stylised? ▶ Fantasy? ▶ Period? ▶ Contemporary? 	
Size, scale and positioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How big is the stage space and the scenery? ▶ Where key items are placed on the stage? ▶ Where are entrances and exits? 	
Colours and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What are the main colours used? ▶ Are the walls and fabrics plain or patterned? ▶ What is used in the set construction: fabrics, wood, plastic, metal and so on? 	
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Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Platforms? ▶ Scaffolding? ▶ Ramps? ▶ Stairs? 	
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Projections? ▶ Multimedia? 	

Set Design Notes – Example 3

Brief Description of Scene:

Use the chart below to make notes on the set in the show you saw.

Set design notes		Draw a basic sketch.
Production		
Type of set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Naturalistic? ▶ Minimalist? ▶ Stylised? ▶ Fantasy? ▶ Period? ▶ Contemporary? 	
Size, scale and positioning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How big is the stage space and the scenery? ▶ Where key items are placed on the stage? ▶ Where are entrances and exits? 	
Colours and materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What are the main colours used? ▶ Are the walls and fabrics plain or patterned? ▶ What is used in the set construction: fabrics, wood, plastic, metal and so on? 	
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Drapes or curtains? ▶ Flats? ▶ Backdrops? ▶ Cyclorama? ▶ Bare wall? 	
Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Platforms? ▶ Scaffolding? ▶ Ramps? ▶ Stairs? 	
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Projections? ▶ Multimedia? 	

Set design evaluation

Beyond describing and analysing the set, you must judge whether or not it was effective and successful. This means doing more than just expressing that it was 'good' or 'bad' or 'beautiful' or 'ugly'. Think about:

Did the set fulfil its purpose?

For example, if it was meant to represent a certain period or location, did it do that successfully?

Was the set of a high technical standard?

For example, were set changes achieved efficiently and smoothly? Was the set sturdy enough for the demands put on it? Did it suit the staging configuration and avoid blocking sightlines?

Did the set engage and interest the audience?

For example, was it eye-catching or versatile or clever or believable?

Did the set contribute to the mood and atmosphere?

For example, if the play was comic or frightening, did the set contribute to that?

Did the set help you to understand the characters and their lives?

For example, if the characters were wealthy or poverty-stricken, did the set represent that?

Did the set support the action of the play?

For example, if a character was meant to be hidden, did the set create a believable hiding place? If a character made an important entrance, how did the set allow that?

Did the set support the themes of the play?

For example, if the play was about ambition or injustice, did the set convey that?

Analysing and Evaluating Costume

Drama terminology: costumes

In order to write accurately about costume design, you need to understand the correct terminology. Below are some useful words to help you describe and analyse what you have seen.

MASKS

Full-face or partial, mime, masque ball, animal.

WIGS

Natural, period or theatrical.

PADDING

Protective padding, character padding (for example to make a character rounder), fashion padding (such as shoulder pads), to give a different silhouette.

NECKLINE/COLLAR

High, low, scooped; v-neck, turtleneck; Peter Pan, Nehru and so on.

FACIAL HAIR

Moustache, sideburns, beards.

JEWELLERY

Earrings, necklace, watch, bracelets, rings, brooches.

HAIR

Colour, length, style.

MAKE-UP

Natural, character, stylised or fantasy.

HEADWEAR

Hat, scarf, crown, headband, ribbon, headpiece, tiara and so on.

NECKWEAR

Ties, scarves, cravats. Wool, silk, polyester, pattern or plain, tied or loose.

DECORATIONS AND TRIM

Sequins, rhinestones and so on; buttons, braid, lace, embroidery, faux fur.

OUTERWEAR

Coats, jackets, capes, shawls, trench coats.

COLOUR-CODING

Using certain colours to convey specific meanings, such as social class or membership of a group.

HOSIERY

Tights, stockings, socks; plain or patterned; skin-tone or coloured.

UNDERGARMENTS

Corsetry (such as bras and girdles), underskirts/petticoats, slips, camisoles, briefs.

COLOUR PALETTE

The range of colours used, such as muted tones, autumn tones, primary colours, black and white; complementary or clashing.

CONDITION

'Distressed' to look worn or old; pressed, clean, soiled, ripped, stained, mended, faded.

FABRICS

Silk, wool, cotton, polyester, chiffon, rubber; print or plain.

SILHOUETTE AND FIT

Tight, loose, oversized, high waisted, drop waist, hourglass and so on.

FOOTWEAR

Brogues, slip-ons, lace-ups, trainers, heels, slippers, boots and so on.

FOOTWEAR EMBELLISHMENTS

Logos, buckles, charms, straps, ribbons.

Making costume notes on the production you have seen

Use the outline and prompts below to make notes on the costumes you saw.

COSTUME SKETCH AND DESIGN NOTES: DETAILS AND TERMINOLOGY

COSTUME TYPES

Naturalistic?
Stylised?
Fantasy?
Period?
Contemporary?

FIT, SILHOUETTE AND CONDITION

Loose or tight?
High or low waisted?
Narrow or wide shoulders?
Neckline?
Length?
Wrinkled or pressed?
New or old?
Soiled or clean?

COLOURS, FABRICS AND MATERIALS

What are the main colours used?
Are the fabrics plain or patterned?
What textures do the fabrics have?



HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Wigs or natural?
Long or short?
Colour?
Style?
Natural or exaggerated?
Any features emphasised?
Accessories
Headwear?
Handbags?
Shawls, capes or coats?
Jewellery?

FOOTWEAR

Shoes?
Sandals?
Lace-ups?
Trainers?
Boots?
Barefoot?

COSTUME CHANGES

More than one costume?
How were changes achieved?

Costume Design Notes – Example 1

Character:	
Costume Types	
Hair & Make-Up	
Fit, Silhouette & Condition	
Colours, Fabrics & Materials	
Footwear	
Costume Changes	

Costume Design Notes – Example 2

Character:	
Costume Types	
Hair & Make-Up	
Fit, Silhouette & Condition	
Colours, Fabrics & Materials	
Footwear	
Costume Changes	

Costume Design Notes – Example 3

Character:	
Costume Types	
Hair & Make-Up	
Fit, Silhouette & Condition	
Colours, Fabrics & Materials	
Footwear	
Costume Changes	

Costume evaluation

Beyond describing and analysing the costumes, you must judge whether or not they were effective and successful. This means doing more than just commenting that they were 'good' or 'bad' or 'beautiful' or 'ugly'. Think about:

Did the costumes fulfil their purposes?

For example, if they were meant to be from a certain period or location, did they achieve that?

Did the costumes help you to understand the characters?

For example, if the characters were wealthy or struggling or young or attention-seeking, did the costumes show that?

Were the costumes of a high technical standard?

For example, could the actors move well in the costumes and were costume changes achieved efficiently?

Did the costumes provide interest for the audience?

For example, were they eye-catching or versatile or clever or highly appropriate?

Did the costumes contribute to mood and atmosphere?

For example, if the play was meant to be comic or frightening, did costumes add to that?

Did the costumes assist the action of the play?

For example, if a character underwent a change or made an important entrance, did the costumes support that?

Did the costumes reflect the themes of the play?

For example, if the play was about poverty or ambition, did the costumes convey that?

Analysing and Evaluating Lighting

Drama terminology: lighting

In order to write accurately about lighting design, you need to understand the correct terminology. Below are some useful words to help you describe and analyse what you have seen.

LIGHTING RIG

The structure that holds the lighting equipment in the theatre.

SPOTLIGHT

A lamp that projects a bright light onto an area of stage, usually focusing on a performer.

FOLLOW-SPOT

A lamp that produces a bright beam, which can be operated to 'follow' a performer.

LIGHTING PLOT

Similar to an architectural plan, to show where the lights will hang. It shows the position, type of lighting fixture and colours of gels.

HOUSE LIGHTS

The lights in the auditorium that are usually on while the audience is being seated and then dimmed when the performance is about to begin.

LANTERN

A lamp and reflector in a box which produces lighting. There are different types of lantern, such as profile, fresnel and flood.

SMOKE, FOG OR HAZE MACHINE

A piece of equipment which uses a gas to produce clouds or mists.

LED LIGHTS

Powerful and colourful lights that don't require gels and are energy efficient.

WASH

Light which covers the whole stage or large area of it.

DIAGONALS

Lights projected down at roughly a 45-degree angle.

DOWNLIGHT OR TOP-LIGHT

Light from directly overhead.

FILTER OR GEL

A coloured piece of plastic inserted into a case on a lantern to alter the colour of the light.

BLACKOUT

Switching off all stage lights. This can be sudden or gradual.

FADE

Gradually bring up or diminish lights.

PRACTICAL LIGHTS

Working onstage lights that are used in the set, such as desk lamps, torches or candles.

FOOTLIGHTS

Low lights placed on the downstage edge. Popular in Victorian theatres and sometimes now used to create period lighting effects.

STROBE

A lighting device that gives short, bright bursts of bright light.

GOBO

A metal, glass or plastic cut-out attached to a lantern to project patterns, such as leaves, stars, swirls or waves.

CUE TIMING

The time it takes for a lighting change, for example the counts until a blackout occurs or how long a cross-fade takes.

PYROTECHNICS

Special effects that create dramatic effects, such as fireworks, explosions or flashes.

BACKLIGHTING

Lighting projected from a source upstage. It highlights the outline of actors or scenery and separates them from the background.

FLOOR LIGHTING

Lanterns placed on low stands, often used to cast shadows.

MOVING LIGHT

Either a lighting fixture moved manually by an operator, or a computer-operated fixture which is moved remotely.

Lighting Design Notes – Example 1

Scene Description:	
Colours Used	
Lighting Effect	
Angles	
Technology (Strobes, smoke machine, projection etc)	

Lighting Design Notes – Example 2

Scene Description:

Colours Used

Lighting Effect

Angles

Technology

(Strobes, smoke machine, projection etc)

Lighting Design Notes – Example 3

Scene Description:	
Colours Used	
Lighting Effect	
Angles	
Technology (Strobes, smoke machine, projection etc)	

Lighting evaluation

Beyond describing and analysing the lighting, you must judge whether or not it was effective and successful. This means doing more than just expressing that it was 'good' or 'bad' or 'beautiful' or 'ugly'. Think about:

Did the lighting fulfil its purpose?

Were the actors and set appropriately lit so that they could be seen as intended? Did lighting help to present a location or period? Did cues take place when they should have?

Was the lighting of a high technical standard?

For example, were changes accomplished smoothly? Were blackouts efficient? Did the timing of changes seem correct? Was the lighting effective within the staging configuration?

Did the lighting engage and interest the audience?

For example, was it eye-catching or versatile or highly appropriate?

Did lighting contribute to mood and atmosphere?

For example, if the play was comic or frightening or romantic, did the lighting match that?

Did lighting enhance your understanding of the characters?

Were you able to follow the lead actors? If a character's home or costumes were meant to be luxurious, did the lighting contribute to that?

Did lighting help to convey the action of the play?

For example, if something magical was meant to happen, did the lighting achieve that? If an entrance was important, did the lighting support it?

Did the lighting reinforce the themes of the play?

For example, if the play was about violence, magic, poverty or love, did the lighting convey that?

Analysing and Evaluating Sound

Drama terminology: sound

In order to write accurately about sound design, you need to understand the correct terminology. Below are some useful words to help you describe and analyse what you have seen and heard.

VOLUME

How loud or soft a sound or voice is.

ACTOR-MUSICIANS

Performers who play musical instruments as part of their acting roles.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Drums, guitars, violins and so on, which might be played by a band, orchestra or actors.

COMPOSER

Someone who writes music. Some productions have a composer to create original music.

SNAP

Turn sound suddenly off or on.

FADE

Gradually turn sound up or down.

SPEAKERS

Means of amplifying and projecting sound. The placement of speakers will influence how the audience experiences the sound.

RECORDED SOUND

Sound that has been recorded specially for playback during the performance or selected from sound effects archives.

CURTAIN-CALL MUSIC

Music played during the curtain call. Sometimes the curtain call is choreographed to a song.

REVERB

An echoing effect, sustaining the sound longer than usual.

SOUND EFFECTS

Special sounds created either live or recorded, such as slamming doors or alarm bells.

SCENE CHANGES OR TRANSITIONS

How music or sound is used during transitions or scene changes, often to establish a new location or change in mood.

MICROPHONES

Devices for converting and amplifying sound, including:
radio mics: portable microphones, often worn, which allow actors and singers to be amplified with no visible means of connection
overheads: microphones hung above the stage to boost the overall sound.

LIVE SOUND

Sound created by the stage management, technicians or actors during the performance.

PRE-SHOW MUSIC

Music played as the audience enters and waits for the performance to begin.

ACOUSTICS

The sound quality of a given space, including how the size and shape of the theatre affects the warmth or clarity of sound.

Sound Design Notes – Example 1

Scene Description:

Sound design notes		
Production		
Type of sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Naturalistic? ▶ Abstract? ▶ Motivated? ▶ Music? 	
How the sound is produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Live or recorded? ▶ Amplified or not? ▶ On stage or off? ▶ Location of speakers? ▶ Snap or fade on and off? 	<p>If you notice any microphones or speakers, sketch them here.</p>
Quality and nature of sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Loud or soft? ▶ Pleasant or discordant? ▶ Calm or quick? ▶ Natural or treated (for example, reverb or other distortion) 	
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Original or existing? ▶ Style? ▶ Instruments? ▶ Period or contemporary? 	
Effects of music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Do characters react to music? ▶ How does audience react to music? ▶ Is music linked to a character or event? 	
Acoustics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Warm or cold? ▶ Clear or muffled? ▶ Silent surroundings or competing sounds? 	

Sound Design Notes – Example 2

Scene Description:

Sound design notes		
Production		
Type of sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Naturalistic? ▶ Abstract? ▶ Motivated? ▶ Music? 	
How the sound is produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Live or recorded? ▶ Amplified or not? ▶ On stage or off? ▶ Location of speakers? ▶ Snap or fade on and off? 	If you notice any microphones or speakers, sketch them here.
Quality and nature of sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Loud or soft? ▶ Pleasant or discordant? ▶ Calm or quick? ▶ Natural or treated (for example, reverb or other distortion) 	
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Original or existing? ▶ Style? ▶ Instruments? ▶ Period or contemporary? 	
Effects of music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Do characters react to music? ▶ How does audience react to music? ▶ Is music linked to a character or event? 	
Acoustics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Warm or cold? ▶ Clear or muffled? ▶ Silent surroundings or competing sounds? 	

Sound Design Notes – Example 3

Scene Description:

Sound design notes		
Production		
Type of sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Naturalistic? ▶ Abstract? ▶ Motivated? ▶ Music? 	
How the sound is produced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Live or recorded? ▶ Amplified or not? ▶ On stage or off? ▶ Location of speakers? ▶ Snap or fade on and off? 	If you notice any microphones or speakers, sketch them here.
Quality and nature of sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Loud or soft? ▶ Pleasant or discordant? ▶ Calm or quick? ▶ Natural or treated (for example, reverb or other distortion) 	
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Original or existing? ▶ Style? ▶ Instruments? ▶ Period or contemporary? 	
Effects of music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Do characters react to music? ▶ How does audience react to music? ▶ Is music linked to a character or event? 	
Acoustics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Warm or cold? ▶ Clear or muffled? ▶ Silent surroundings or competing sounds? 	

Sound design evaluation

Beyond describing and analysing the sound, you must judge whether or not it was effective and successful. This means doing more than just expressing that it was 'good' or 'bad' or 'beautiful' or 'dull'. Think about:

Did the sound fulfil its purpose?

For example, if it was meant to represent a certain period or location, did it do that successfully?

Was the sound of a high technical standard?

For example, were volume levels appropriate? Were cues completed on time?

Did the sound engage and interest the audience?

For example, was the music catchy, beautiful, memorable or surprising?

Did sound contribute to mood and atmosphere?

For example, if the play was meant to be comic or frightening, did sound add to that?

Did the sound help you to understand the characters?

For example, was music used to introduce a character or to underscore their speech?

Did sound add to the action of the play?

For example, did it help to establish changes in location, time or mood?

Did the sound design support the themes of the play?

For example, if the play was about love, conflict or childhood, did the sound help to convey that?

