

Year 7 Drama Knowledge Organiser- Term 2: Pantomime



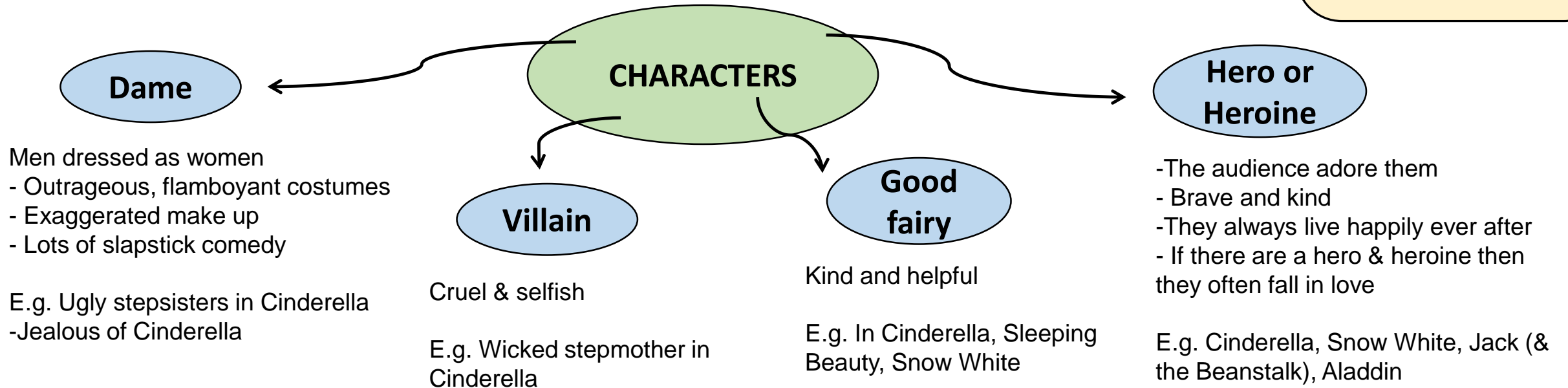
What makes a panto?

- Pantomimes are a British tradition
- Often performed at Christmas
- Based on fairy tales & nursery stories
- Mainly aimed at children
- Cheeky jokes that only the adults understand!
- Slapstick comedy
- Songs (Sometimes by celebs)
- Audience participation
- Over the top acting & facial expressions



What's the plot?

- Good battles evil
- Villain is defeated
- True love conquers all
- Everyone lives happily ever after!



What's the history of pantomime?

- It all started with Comedia Dell'Arte in Italy in 16th century. Stock characters made the audience laugh with their exaggerated style... just like panto now!
- The British copied this but called it a Harlequinade. It involved lots of silliness and slapstick.
- In 1819 at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane, the first panto was performed, 'Jack & the Beanstalk'. The audience loved it!

He's behind you!

Oh yes he is!

Oh no he isn't!

BOO!

HISS!

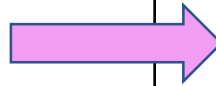
♥ Aww! ♥

Audience Participation

- The audience shout out well known phrases to join in with the action on stage
- Sometimes the actors throw sweets or water out!

What makes a panto funny?

Slapstick Comedy	Hilarious falls & collisions
Melodramatic Acting	Larger-than-life gestures and movements. Exaggerated facial expressions.
Funny Props	E.g. Cream pies splatted in faces, buckets of water, banana peels
Jokes & puns	e.g. Why wasn't Cinderella any good at football? She kept running away from the ball!



Have fun with Direct Address!

- In character you can:
- Speak to the audience
 - Tell them your feelings
 - Make fun of them!
 - Pull funny faces at them
 - Treat them like friends
 - Tell them to be quiet!