

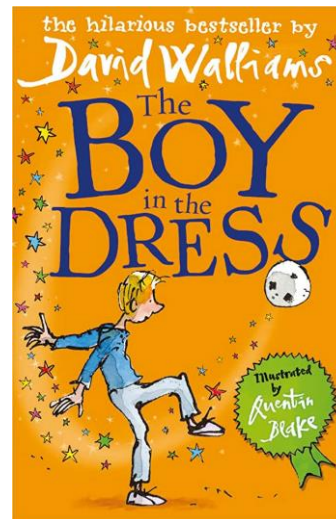
Year 7 Drama -Knowledge Organiser A Boy in a Dress- David Walliams play adapted by Mrs Madden

OPENING NARRATION SCENE

Plot 12-year-old Dennis seems the same as any other 12-year-old. He lives in a boring house in a boring street in a boring town (although let's clear something up straight away, this story IS NOT BORING!). Although Dennis seems the same as any other 12-year-old he feels different, especially since his mother left leaving his father to raise him and his older brother. Why was he different, you ask? Well, there is a small clue in the title of this book.

Dennis loves to play football; he is very good at it and the best player in the team. He also likes to look at fashion magazines, he loves to look at the dresses. His father is quite emotionless (he misses his wife) and John, Dennis' older brother, is very laddish so Dennis has no one he can speak to about his love of fashion. That is until he befriends Lisa, the most beautiful girl in the school. With her help he soon comes to realise that it is ok to be different.

Lisa James designs and makes her own dresses. When she suggests that Dennis try on one of her creations, the idea sticks in his head and sounds really rather good. He decides to give it a try and feels liberated. He put his new look to the test at the local shop with Raj, the very jolly shopper, and fools him in to thinking that Dennis is actually Denise. The next step up is to try and fool the entire school, but it doesn't go as planned. Dennis is then kicked off his football team and feels completely alone until they realise that it doesn't matter what Dennis wears or acts, he is still the same Dennis and they show comradery all wearing dresses for the biggest match of the year.



The Characters :

Characters	Character Profile
<u>Dennis</u>	Dennis is a 12 Year old boy who is talented footballer who is the best in his team. He has a hidden passion for fashion and feels like he needs to hide it. His character is performed as a Boy who feels lost until he tries on a dress for the first time and feels comfortable in his own skin, he overcomes the trials and tribulations of a teenager and expresses this with his bravery.
<u>Martha</u>	Martha is an additional character that has been put into the play to help tell the story. Her personality is sassy, humorous, and she wants to be centre of attention. Her character gets frustrated with the other character Georgia who is a bit more dim than her.
<u>Georgia</u>	Georgia is also an additional character that acts as narration throughout the plot. She is a bit clumsy and dim and can't help interrupting Martha when she is speaking about what goes on in Dennis' life.
<u>Dennis Dad</u>	Dennis Dads character doesn't actually have a name other than Dennis Dad in the play. He is really sad as his wife has left him and he doesn't allow Dennis or john to speak of there Mum and has erased any memory of her from there home.
<u>John</u>	John is older than Dennis and is seen as popular in there School. Even though John acts in a teasing way towards Dennis he still wants the best for him and also wants his Dad to be a better father figure.

FUN FACT

Mrs Madden created an adaption of the book into the play you are performing which is amazing. Why? Because the script has extra characters in that tell the story with other characters narrating what is happening in Dennis life. This gives the audience an insight into the highs and lows of Dennis life that you are going to bring to life.

The Scene

- The scene you will be performing is the Opening of the play where we meet Dennis for the first time
- Martha and Georgia are using the skill NARRATION which is what you will be assessed on.
- The scene is a split stage where we see the characters narrating Dennis coming on and the 2 other characters giving insight into Dennis' life
- Georgia's character tends to get on Marthas nerves but they have a comical relationship that you can use your acting skills to make the audience laugh

Key word	Definition
Narration	Where actors tell the story to the audience
Still Image/Freeze frame	When actors create a picture frozen in time
Crosscutting	Cutting forward or back in time in a plot or to a different scene.
Split stage	One stage that cuts between two different scenes and locations.
Stage directions	The words given by the playwright in a script you don't act out - to do with how the play should be performed.
Reactions	Using acting skills to show how you feel about the other characters or the scene action .



Acting skills

Facial expressions

Hand gestures

Vocal techniques

- Accent
- Tone
- Pitch
- Volume
- Pace
- Stutter
- Pause

Body language

Reactions

Movement

Posture

Reactions

Did you know ?

David Walliams was inspired to write the book based on his own experiences " I was at school in Surrey when I first wore a dress. I was cast in a production of [the children's opera] All the King's Men – as Queen Henrietta – and I wore a wedding dress that my mum had found for me and a wig from the Girl Guides jumble sale. I was 11 or 12 and I remember getting lots of laughs. It was the first time I felt any kind of power.

The Boy in the Dress isn't autobiographical, but it does feel very personal. I didn't want to start using terms like transvestite in a book for eight- to 12-year-olds. I just wanted to tell the story of this one boy, Dennis, and the tension between him liking manly things like playing football and something quite different like reading Vogue

