

# Year 8 Drama - Knowledge Organiser – Term 1 The Terrible fate of Humpty Dumpty by David Calcutt

## The Characters :

<u>Terry</u>	Victim of bullying - new to school - doesn't stand up for himself. Father out of work and we find out he has been in prison. Mum is breadwinner.
<u>Stubbs</u>	Gang leader, intelligent, has the highest status in the gang and makes cover story for the accident. Uses the gang members to 'do his dirty work'.
<u>Pete</u>	The joker in the gang and makes distasteful jokes even after the accident.
<u>Jimmy</u>	Stubbs uses Jimmy to threaten Sammy and Terry with violence. Jimmy is under Stubbs' power.
<u>Kathy and Kay</u>	The 'mean girls' of the group. They tease Terry and bully him cruelly. Kathy talks down to the other gang members.
<u>Janet and Tracy</u>	The girls hang around with the gang, but it is clear they do this, so they don't become a victim too. Janet is clearly upset by Terry's fatal accident and has a conscience. They aren't strong enough to stand up to Stubbs, so they go along with the bullying as bystanders, making them just as at fault.
<u>Sammy</u>	Terry's only friend and the only character strong enough to try and stand up for Terry. Sammy is full of guilt for not doing more to avoid the tragedy. They try to convince Terry to stand up to Stubbs, to no avail.
<u>Mrs Vickers</u>	An eyewitness to the accident who proves to be a vain and self-serving woman- interested more in her moment of fame than the tragedy. Can be played with comic relief.
<u>Ross Webster</u>	A young reporter who is investigating the accident. He finds his eyewitnesses unhelpful but suspects there is more to Terry's death than a simple accident.
<u>The Dumpton Family</u>	Mr Dumpton - has served time in jail, unemployed and potentially depressed. Is angry at Terry for truancy but does get truth about bullying out of his son.  Leslie Dumpton is an annoying younger sibling of Terry who seems to enjoy teasing him and even torments him about his cruel nickname 'Humpty Dumpty' at home.
<u>Headteacher</u>	Unlike our headteacher, this headteacher has questionable morals as they denies any bullying in his school despite no investigation and they even suggests Terry's issues are connected to his difficult background rather than bullying. He does not want to hear any evidence about bullying and worries more about the reputation of the school.

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/>

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Useful websites if you or someone you know are being affected by bullying.



## The PLOT

- The play opens with the fatal tragedy - Terry is forced to climb a pylon by a cruel gang of bullies.
- He is electrocuted.
- The gang cover up their part in his death.
- The play CROSSCUTS back in time to reveal to the audience the weeks before - revealing the systematic bullying and struggles of Terry.
- The play ends as it starts with Terry's death.
- Leaving us in the audience to decide...whose fault was it? **Who is responsible for Terry's death?**



THE TERRIBLE FATE OF HUMPTY DUMPTY  
BY DAVID CALCUTT



## Acting skills

Facial expressions

Hand gestures

Vocal techniques

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

Body language

Reactions

Movement

Posture

Reactions

### Key word

### Definition

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.

Status

Positioning characters in different levels to show the audience their power.

Proxemics

Positioning characters close or far apart to show their alliances or enemies on stage and relationships.

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 .

Thought track

Stepping out of the scene in role to confide in the audience about your inner thoughts while the other cast members freeze.

## The historical context

### Did you know ?

The play the play was set in the 1980s ?

This means there was no CCTV - (how does this affect the plot?)

There were adverts on television warning the public of the dangers of being near pylons.

The play was loosely based on a true accident.

If set in present day - how may life have been different For Terry? Positive and negatives?

