



# Year 9 Drama Knowledge Organiser: Term 3 - The London Dungeons



**Introduction to the London Dungeons**

**Location:** The London Dungeons is a popular tourist attraction located on the South Bank of the River Thames in London, England.

**Historical Background:** The London Dungeons offer an immersive and interactive experience that showcases the darker side of London's history, including its crime, punishment, and supernatural events.

<b>Immersive Theatre</b>	It's a performance art movement that aims to transform audience members from passive recipients to active participants
<b>Improvisation</b>	improvisation, in theatre, the playing of dramatic scenes without written dialogue and with minimal or no predetermined dramatic activity.
<b>Audience interaction</b>	A type of theatre where you involve the audience in some way. They are at the heart of your performance.
<b>Over Exaggerated</b>	Over the top acting.
<b>Character research</b>	Researching your character to enable you to perform realistically and accurately.
<b>Monologue</b>	Exploring the inner thoughts, experiences, and interactions of characters.

**Historical Characters:**

<b>Sweeny Todd</b>	Sweeney escaped from prison after being wrongfully accused and jailed for fifteen years. Formerly a proud barber, a loving husband and a happy father, Sweeney is now consumed by loss and revenge. He has returned to London to right the wrongs committed against him, his wife, and his daughter. Sweeney is charming but hot-tempered, ferocious yet vulnerable. Strong baritone/bass who can whistle. Speaks with an Estuary or London dialect.
<b>Jack the ripper</b>	Jack the Ripper was an English serial killer. Between August and November 1888, he murdered at least five women—all prostitutes—in or near the Whitechapel district of London's East End. Jack the Ripper was never identified or arrested.
<b>Mrs Lovett</b>	40s, Cockney accent, energetic, talkative, has a crush on Sweeney. There is a very slight edge of insanity to her and a streak of larceny--she is motivated by desire--for money, for love, for popularity. She is all bright eyes and smiles, but kills cockroaches and chops meat like a pro.
<b>Guy Fawkes</b>	Born a Protestant in York in 1570, Fawkes later converted to Catholicism. Intelligent, tough, and cool-headed, his qualities were noted by English Catholics. Winter learned of Fawkes's extensive expertise in explosives and convinced him to join the plot.

**WHAT IS THE LONDON DUNGEON?**

The London Dungeon brings together an amazing cast of theatrical actors, special effects, stages, scenes and rides.

**The experience includes..**

- Full on 360 degree sets with gripping storytelling.
- 19 interactive shows, 20 live actors, 1000 years of history.
- State of the art theming and special effects
- 2 thrilling underground rides.
- Laughs, screams and cutting edge storytelling.

### Audience Interaction

**Interactive Performances:** The London Dungeons involve the audience through many ways, such as asking for volunteers or speaking directly to the audience in dialogue. Actors must be able to interact with visitors and adapt their performances accordingly.

Given the interactive nature of the experience, actors must be able to use improvisation to engage with visitors and respond to unexpected situations.

### **Homework - Research the London dungeons and the historical characters.**

Many historical figures are portrayed at the London Dungeons, such as Jack the Ripper, Sweeney Todd, and Guy Fawkes.

**FIND OUT** -Actors should conduct thorough research on historical events, characters, and settings to ensure accurate representation and maintain the credibility of the experience.

*Understanding the background and motivations of these characters is essential for realistic portrayal.*



### Theatrical Techniques and Skills

**Physicality:** Actors at the London Dungeons use physicality to portray characters effectively, including body language, gestures, and facial expressions. You will need to embrace your characters through the use of physical skills.

**Voice and Projection:** You will have the ability to project and manipulate your voice to create different characters and convey emotions is crucial in the immersive environment. Using your voice to set the scene and create tension.

**Improvisation:** Given the interactive nature of the experience, actors must be use improvisation to engage with visitors and respond to unexpected situations.

