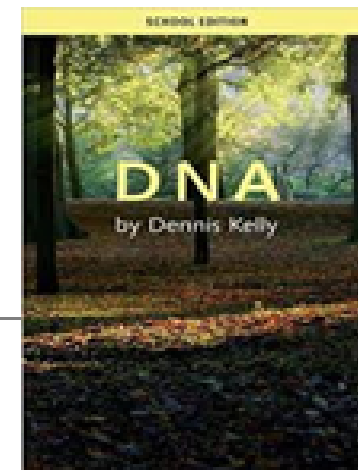


Big Idea:

Script Work from page to stage

DNA – by Dennis Kelly

DNA is a play by Dennis Kelly and written as part of the National Theatre connection festival for young people. Amongst the darkness of a wood, a lawless gang are trying to bury a dark secret. The group need someone to take charge, but who can they trust? Who do they follow? While lies spiral and tension mounts, everyday adolescence twists and turns into an anarchic game of survival. Year 9 actors will take on roles from the play, and develop their skills in bringing a script to life through following directions and blocking scenes by making their own creative decisions as to how it should be played to ensure the playwright creative vision is realised.



Key Knowledge

DNA deals with contemporary issues through its portrayal of a particularly disaffected and alienated teenage orientated view of the 'modern' world. The characters are loosely drawn and not often given space to comment on anything other than their immediate world and the complications of the relationships through which it is structured. The scenes are full of confrontational situations, often framed around a character addressing another with no response and at times this creates scenes constructed of a series of monologues. This lack of communication builds powerful dramatic tension and often explodes into furious argument between characters and within characters. There is virtually no communication with the world outside the friendship group and the world of the characters takes very little notice of the rest of society until faced with the consequences of an act of wilful and 'mindless' aggression. The aftermath of this act brings the characters closer together and then pulls them apart. When exploring this play the year 9 actors should enjoy the power of the arguments and will be shocked by the immorality that underpins the choices made by some of the characters. This play will provoke intense discussion in the workshops about right and wrong and our responsibility for each other.

Key Language

Actor/Narrator: An actor who delivers a commentary accompanying a play.

Monologue: In theatre, a monologue is a speech presented by a single character, most often to express their mental thoughts aloud.

Multi- Role: The playing of a number of roles by an actor in a play.

Naturalism - Naturalism in drama refers to the belief that a play should try to represent reality as closely as possible. In naturalistic theater, stage time reflects real time, costumes and settings portray as many details of the time as possible, the play takes place in a single location over the course of a day

Non-Naturalism - Non-naturalism is a broad term for all performance styles that are not dependent on the life-like representation of everyday life

Thought Tracking: Thought Tracking is by characters in a play, when they are still in character they pause and step out of their character and say how they are feeling.

Unity of Action – A play should have one unified plot

Unity of Place – A single location.

Unity of Time – Time is linear, usually one day.

Key Skills

Audience awareness

Body language

Communication

Concentration

Confidence

Creativity

Listening

Posture

Spatial Awareness

Stagecraft

Teamwork

Vocal

