

The Big idea:

# Styles and Concepts

## Melting Clocks

Abstract is a genre description for many art forms. In music, film and painting, abstract usually refers to a form of expression that deliberately subverts the established rules of presentation. Within the theatre, these rules usually relate directly to the relationship between the actors and the audience. There are a number of theatre practitioners that relate to abstract theatre including Antonin Artaud. In year 8 actors will explore the paintings of Salvador Dali and consider what is the meaning behind the painting. They will experiment with Abstract techniques and learn to think 'outside of the box.'

Key Knowledge:

The **Theatre of Cruelty** is a form of theatre generally associated with [Antonin Artaud](#). Artaud, who was briefly a member of the surrealist movement, outlined his theories in [The Theatre and its Double](#). The Theatre of Cruelty can be seen as a break from traditional theatre and a means by which artists 'assault the senses' of the audience. Artaud's works have been highly influential on artists including Salvador Dali.

Key Language:

**Activist** - a person who campaigns to bring about political or social change  
**Audience** - the assembled spectators or listeners at a public event such as a play, film, concert, or meeting.  
**Participation** - the action of taking part in something.  
**Practitioner** - a person actively engaged in an art, discipline, or profession  
**Social** - relating to society  
**Spect-Actor** - a spectator who is often encouraged to be a part of the drama in order to spark change  
**Theorist** - a person concerned with the theoretical aspects of a subject; a theoretician

Key Skills and dramatic techniques:

- Forum theatre
- Theatre of Cruelty
- Public speaking
- Rational thinking
- Discipline
- Empathy
- Improvisation
- Debating
- Surrealism
- Abstract theatre

