

What we already know <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students have explored characters, plot and setting in previous terms Students have explored plays through Shakespeare Students have been introduced to analysis paragraphs (PEE structure)

Stage 8 and 9 English:
Modern Play
(Our Day Out or Blood Brothers)

What's next <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use this knowledge to support with studying of An Inspector Calls in Y10/11.

English Golden Concepts				
Reading: Fluency	Reading: Comprehension	Speaking and Listening	Writing Transcription	Writing Composition

What is a modern play?

A modern play is a type of drama written in the 20th or 21st century that explores realistic characters, contemporary issues, and social or political themes. It often uses everyday language and focuses on relatable situations to engage the audience.

Key Vocabulary	
Stage directions	Instructions for actors and directors on movement, tone, or setting.
Monologue	A long speech by one character revealing thoughts or feelings.
Dramatic Irony	Audience knows something the characters do not.
Foreshadowing	Hints at events to come.
Dialect	Language reflecting regional or social identity.
Juxtaposition	Contrasting ideas or characters placed close together.
Symbolism	Use of objects or characters to represent larger ideas.

Conventions of Modern Plays

Modern plays often explore social and political themes, focusing on realism or satire. They aim to:

- Raise awareness: explore societal issues (e.g., class, education, inequality).
- Use naturalistic dialogue: language reflects everyday speech.
- Feature relatable characters: audiences connect with their struggles and emotions.
- Blend comedy and tragedy: even serious plays often include humour to engage the audience.
- Provide social commentary: offer insight into the playwright's perspective on society.

Dramatic Techniques	
Direct Address	Characters speak directly to the audience.
Flashbacks/Flashforwards	Shifts in time to show past or future events.
Multiple Locations	Use of different settings to reflect themes.
Tension	Building suspense to engage the audience.
Characterisation	Development of characters through dialogue or action.
Contrast	Opposing ideas or settings to emphasise themes.

Context	
Class System	Highlighted inequality between working and middle classes. (Blood Brothers).
Education	1970s/80s views on education and opportunities (Our Day Out)
Economic Hardship	The impact of unemployment and poverty (Blood Brothers).
Liverpool Setting	Both plays reflect the struggles of Liverpool communities.
Characterisation	Development of characters through dialogue or action.
Social Commentary	Willy Russell critiques societal structures that limit potential.