

DNA – Denis Kelly

The script provides essential information to the actor and technical department. It suggests stage directions, pauses and the style of emotion the character should move or speak in. For the technical team, it prompts any lighting, sound or stage direction that is needed for the scene.

Director is responsible for the practical and creative interpretation of a script. They oversee the whole production.

A. Storyline

DNA was written in 2007 and is set in the early 21st Century. It's about a group of teenagers, who could be described as a 'gang' who have accidentally killed one of their classmates. When they realise their mistake, they try to cover up the crime but inadvertently implicate an innocent man.

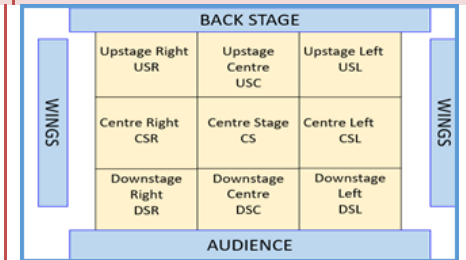
B. Themes

Bullying - The most obvious character who is bullied is Adam which happens before the beginning of the play and seemingly has caused his death. However, it is worth considering who the main bullies are and what types e.g. verbal, mental and physical.

Gangs – Adam is not only desperate to be part of the gang, but consider what the others are prepared to do to stay in the gang.

Power – There are numerous power struggles within the play and it shifts throughout. It is Cathy that ultimately takes on the role as gang leader in the end, we should consider why? Other themes are responsibility, violence, fear and friendship

C. Stage Positions



D. Characters

<u>Mark and Jan</u>	<u>Leah</u>	<u>Phil</u>	<u>Lou</u>	<u>John Tate</u>	<u>Danny</u>	<u>Richard</u>	<u>Cathy</u>	<u>Brian</u>	<u>Adam</u>
Mark and Jan act as narrators who explain what is happening. They are always together and help in the cover up.	Leah is a moral character who worries about the groups actions. She is insecure and seeks Phil's attention.	Phil is the group's leader for most of the play. He's quiet, emotionless, and manipulative.	Lou worries about the group getting caught. She follows whoever is in charge.	John Tate starts as the group leader, but his authority is weak, and he leaves early in the play.	Danny is a selfish character who is more worried about becoming a dentist than Adam's wellbeing.	Richard seems unhappy about the cover up, but he goes along with it. He challenged John Tate's leadership.	Cathy is violent and remorseless about Adam's death. She helps to kill Adam after he reappears.	Brian is the weakest group member. He's bullied into covering up Adam's death and he suffers a mental breakdown as a result.	Adam is bullied by the group and thought to be dead. He turns out to be alive, but Phil has him killed.

E. Types of Theatre



In The Round— the audience sit around the stage on all sides. Performers enter and exit through the audience on walkways.



Thrust stage sticks out into the audience, who sit on three sides. There is a back wall that can be used for hanging backdrops and large scenery.



Proscenium Arch— describes the frame that surrounds the stage. All the audience face the same way. The stage is raised. The seating is often tiered.

F. Vocal

Types of volume: Whisper, quiet, talking, loud, shouting.
Types of Pitch: Low, medium, high
Pause: Stillness in a scene or dialogue
Pace: Speed of dialogue
Tone: Emotionally influenced dialogue
Emphasis: Putting importance on a word

G. Physical

Gestures: Using movement to express emotion or direction
Facial expressions: Used to show emotion
Body language: Use to show the character profile/emotion
Levels: Used to show status/hierarchy
Gait: Character walk
Eye contact: Between actors/audience
Proxemics: Space between actors/audience

H. Performance Skills

Cross-cutting: To show contrast on stage.
Freeze Frame: To highlight a key moment.
Narration: To give the audience information about the story
Thought track: To give the audience information about a character
Direct address/aside: Speaking directly to the audience out of the scene
Multi-rolling: Playing more than one character

