

# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



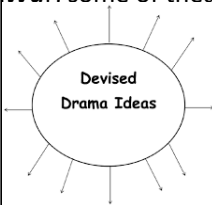
## Working from Different Stimuli (Devising)

Year 9  
Autumn 1

### Where do ideas come from?

Britain may lay claim to some of the world's greatest dramatists, but solitary scribbling isn't the only way to create theatre. "Devising" is a process in which the whole creative team develops a piece collaboratively. From actors to technicians, everyone is involved in the creative process. Since the pioneering *Oh What a Lovely War*, some of theatre's most exciting productions have been made this way.

You can get your ideas from many different sources. It can be a visual source such as a picture or object. It may be aural; a song or speech may inspire you to make performance. Written texts such as articles or poems may be the source of your inspiration.



### Research and moving the process forward.

**Devising** is a group collaboration in response to a stimulus leading to the creation of an original performance. **Devising** in **drama** demands inventiveness, an understanding of the rules of structuring a piece of theatre and a readiness to collaborate with others.

**Do your research.** The more you know about your starting material, the freer your imagination will be within it. Research nourishes rehearsals, provides a huge wealth of material from which to devise, and gives authenticity to your final production. The latter is important; if an audience questions the world you create, it's almost impossible for them to relax into the fantasies you're weaving. So how do you research?

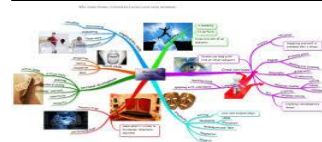
Internet	Observation / Participant Observation	Surveys
Interviews	Focus Groups	School Library

**Unite the whole company around a common purpose.** Set aside some time early on to explore everyone's personal objectives for making the piece. Then, as an ensemble, write a unified mission statement for the piece. This might range from explicitly political aims to simply wanting to create a joyous evening of fun – it might even change as the project moves forward. It will provide an essential framework against which you can judge every decision you make and ensures that everyone is travelling in the same direction.

### Stimuli



You should try to include some social and historical context. Try to make your work so that it is relevant to contemporary society. You may want to mind map your ideas.



A stimulus can offer many different avenues to explore. Don't dismiss anything initially and allow your creativity to lead.

### Devising Drama: Songs as Stimuli

KEY QUESTIONS:  
What is 'devised' drama?  
What is a stimulus?

### Practical exploration

Some of the possible areas of practical exploration and ideas for their application are described below. These should appeal to the full range of abilities, making this stage accessible and challenging. Note that this should not be taken as a definitive list and your own original ideas.

- Improvisation
- Tableaux
- Movement and physical sequences
- Developing a role and characterisation
- Hot seating

