Wednesday 6th January 2021

LO: To prepare and perform a piece of writing

Introduction

Our new text is Viking Boy by Tony Bradman.

The author has included a scene which happens before Chapter 1. This could be a sort of introduction.

Three voices speak in the deep darkness by the giant roots of Yggdrasil, great tree of worlds, its colossal bulk rising high into the sky above.

"Spin and weave…" says the first, the oldest, voice of that which has been.

"A line of silver thread…" says the second voice of that which is now.

"One little snip… and then you're dead," says the third, voice of all that which is yet to come.

The Three Sisters cackle, and their vast web trembles. It stands around them, endlessly tangled and knotted and pulsing with life.

Sudden light in the darkness, a small glowing pool like a shimmering mirror. Three faces leaning over it, reflecting the gleam, eagerly searching the ripples for what they might see.

Soon an image appears on the surface.

"Who's that?" says the oldest, peering. "Is it the boy, our chosen one?"

"It's him and no other," says the second. "Happy as a dolphin leaping."

"He'll suffer before we're done," says the third, and they cackle again. They join bony hands and dance wildly round the pool, chanting as they caper, their hair like nests of snakes, their ragged black cloaks whirling…

"Men's fates we weave from birth to death

We number each and every breath

We are the Norms who always win.

Now let this Viking tale begin…"

Are there any words that you are not sure about?

Who do you think the 'chosen one' might be?

You are going to rewrite this scene as a play script, then rehearse and perform a section of this opening scene.

You need to think about voice, intonation, positions, gestures.

Features of a Play Script

Key

Character names	Speech
Setting the scene	Character directions within speech
Stage directions	

No inverted commas are needed!

The Mad Hatter, Dormouse and Hare are sitting at a table having afternoon tea.

Alice enters the scene, stage left.

Mad Hatter: *(starts for a moment, pauses and a broad grin appears across his face. He gets up out of his chair and walks across the table towards Alice)* It's you.

Dormouse: *(exasperated)* No it's not! Hare brought us the wrong Alice!

Hare: *(gasps and throws his hands against his head)* It's the wrong Alice!

Mad Hatter: You're absolutely Alice, I'd know you anywhere!

- Stage directions in brackets

- Speaker's name first, then colon. No 'said', or reporting clause
  E.g. Narrator 1: ……

- No inverted commas around speech

- Setting the scene at the beginning in brackets

Model

(In the forest, there is a large tree surrounded by leaves and soil. The lighting is very dim.

Three figures can only just be seen against the backdrop of the forest. As the lights come up

slightly, a large web made of shimmering thread, tangled and trembling, can be seen)

(Enter Narrator 1, front of the stage)

Narrator 1: Three voices speak in the deep darkness by the giant roots of Yggdrasil, great tree

of worlds, its colossal bulk rising high into the sky above.

Sister 1: (Reaching for the web) Spin and weave…

Sister 2: (Wiggling fingers) A line of silver thread…

Sister 3: (Cackling) One little snip… and then you're dead!

Your play script

- You may choose to leave some of the narrating parts out it is up to you.

- You may use the speech directly as it is in the original.

- Extension: can you add anything to your scene that would create tension/suspense?

Success Criteria	
Punctuation CAPITAL LETTERS commas, full stops. exclamation marks! question marks?	
Speaker's name on the left, then colon Sister 1:	
No inverted commas Sister 1: Spin and weave…	
Stage directions in brackets Sister 1: (reaching for the web) Spin and weave…	
Descriptive language for setting the scene The forest is dark and gloomy. The sisters are hunched over a glimmering web of tangled thread.	
Year 5 / 6 word ancient, mischievous, rhythm, symbol	

Once you have written your script, you can perform it out loud!