

# CLASSROOM PACK

## TEACHER'S NOTES

1. Vocabulary exercises
2. Multiple choice
3. Written expression
4. Oral expression
5. Culture



# VOCABULARY EXERCISES



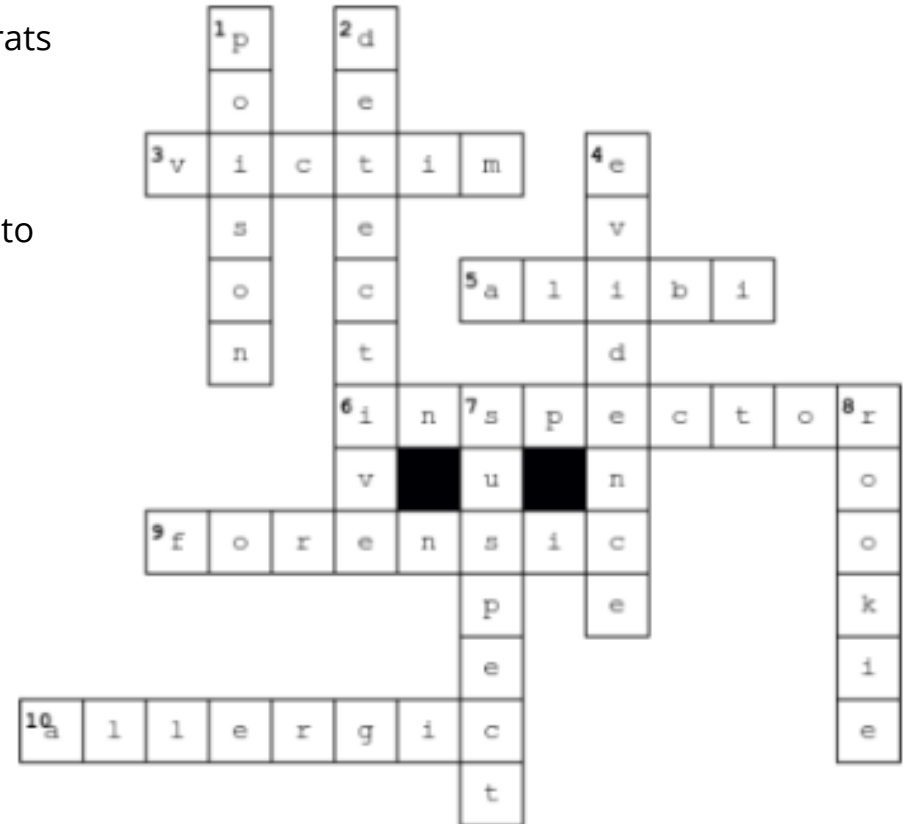
**PART A:** Complete the sentences with the missing words from the play

## ACROSS

3. The latest fashion \_\_\_\_\_ was found wearing Crocs!
5. I was with Lisa all night. She's my \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Good evening Madam. I am \_\_\_\_\_ Renolds and we received a call to this address about a possible crime in progress.
9. We got the \_\_\_\_\_ reports back from the lab. His DNA was found all over the murder weapon.
10. I can't eat that I'm \_\_\_\_\_.

## DOWN

1. The house is infested with rats so I put some \_\_\_\_\_ out for them.
2. We should get a \_\_\_\_\_ to investigate what happened.
4. All the clues point in her direction. All the \_\_\_\_\_ is stacked against her.
7. We'll have to bring in the \_\_\_\_\_ and interrogate him.
8. You're a new cop, alright! You're a \_\_\_\_\_.



**ALIBI • ALLERGIC • DETECTIVE • EVIDENCE • FORENSIC • INSPECTOR • POISON • ROOKIE • SUSPECT • VICTIM**

*Each word is taken from the lexicon. If students are struggling you can provide them with the words and they can use those to match with the sentences.*

**PART B - Code cracker:** Unscramble the words to crack the code.

FEATHERS 1 9 A 11 12 E R S

1	9		11	12			
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EARTHSERF - birds grow them

COSTUME C O 6 T 13 M E

		6		13		
--	--	---	--	----	--	--

MUSTOCE - an actor wears it on stage

MYSTERY 4 Y S T E R 8

4						8
---	--	--	--	--	--	---

RESTM Y - something unknown

CLIENTS C 3 10 E 18 T S

	3	10			18	
--	---	----	--	--	----	--

TENISCL - a customer for a service

BROADWAY 2 R O A 19 7 14 Y

2				19	7	14	
---	--	--	--	----	---	----	--

WADROBYA - a big theatre district in New York

CRACKING C 15 A C 16 I N 17

	15			16			17
--	----	--	--	----	--	--	----

KICCRANG - when you break something open

PROOF 20 R O 5 F

20			5	
----	--	--	---	--

FROP O - evidence that proves your point

3 10 1 9 6 2 13 11 14 7 14 3 16 10 18 17

LIFE'S BUT A WALKING

6 12 14 19 5 7, 14 20 5 5 15 20 3 14 8 9 15,

SHADOW, A POOR PLAYER

11 12 14 11 6 11 15 13 11 6 14 18 19 1 15 9 11 6

THAT STRUTS AND FRETS

12 10 6 12 5 13 15 13 20 5 18 11 12 9 6 11 14 17 9

HIS HOUR UPON THE STAGE

14 18 19 11 12 9 18 10 6 12 9 14 15 19 18 5 4 5 15 9.

AND THEN IS HEARD NO MORE.

***William Shakespeare, Macbeth***

The quote links to a line Ciara says in the last scene of the play and of course Shakespeare's Macbeth. For your more able students, you can dive into the monologue more in depth, asking about what the metaphors mean and what they think Shakespeare meant by this monologue and Macbeth's frame of mind while speaking it.

### C) KAHOOT!

CLICK HERE OR ON THE QR CODE !



For extra exercises, log on [www.kahoot.it](http://www.kahoot.it) and register and play the game.

Eight extra vocabulary questions have been added to the multiple-choice quiz available on [www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com).

The point is to choose the word matching the definition appearing on the screen. This exercise can be done online in class for an interactive experience or can be assigned if you use a digital platform.

Visit [www.kahoot.com](http://www.kahoot.com) and log in.

If you don't have an account yet, create a profile for free in less than 2 minutes.

Click on "discover" and write in the "Find me a kahoot about..." search bar: "Pickles company: Opening Night Senior show 2023-2024".

You can duplicate the quiz in order to add questions or adapt the time chosen to answer each question. Then click to "Play", then "teach". Your students can play individually or in teams.

Select the "classic" or "team" mode.

A Game pin appears on the screen. Your students will need their smartphones to connect on [www.kahoot.it](http://www.kahoot.it) and enter the pin and their name. When all the players are ready, click on start.

An app is also available.

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

Your students have read the summary and the presentation of the main protagonists of Opening Night. The multiple-choice exercise can be done before or after attending the play. Here are the answers.



## 1. Who falls dead on stage?

- ☐ Ciara Stone
- ☐ Paul Edison
- ☐ Mike O'Neil
- ☒ **Madison Reese**

## 2. What is the name of the director of the show?

- ☐ Madison Reese
- ☒ **Paul Edison**
- ☐ Brian Kane
- ☐ Lorcan

## 3. Where does the death and play take place?

- ☒ **Unity Theatre**
- ☐ Trinity Theatre
- ☐ Dublin
- ☐ Broadway

## 4. Who is having an affair with Madison Reese?

- ☐ Brian Kane
- ☐ Mike O'Neill
- ☐ Chief Batista
- ☒ **Paul Edison**

## 5. Ciara is jealous of Madison for multiple reasons. Which reason below is NOT one of those reasons

- ☒ **She had an affair with her boyfriend**
- ☐ She's a very talented actress
- ☐ She is playing the lead role
- ☐ Madison got a job that was promised to Ciara

## 6. Who is the stage manager?

- ☐ Paul Edison
- ☐ Ciara Stone
- ☒ **Lorcan**
- ☐ The Assistant

## 7. How would you describe Mike O'Neil?

- ☐ Thorough and detailed oriented
- ☐ Bubbly and a team player
- ☒ **Clumsy and persistent**
- ☐ Loud, angry and aggressive

## 8. How does the lead actress die?

- ☐ Stabbed
- ☒ **Poisoned**
- ☐ Heart attack
- ☐ Stage fright

## 9. What is Ciara Stone allergic to?

- ☐ Bees
- ☐ Cats
- ☒ **Feathers**
- ☐ Pollen

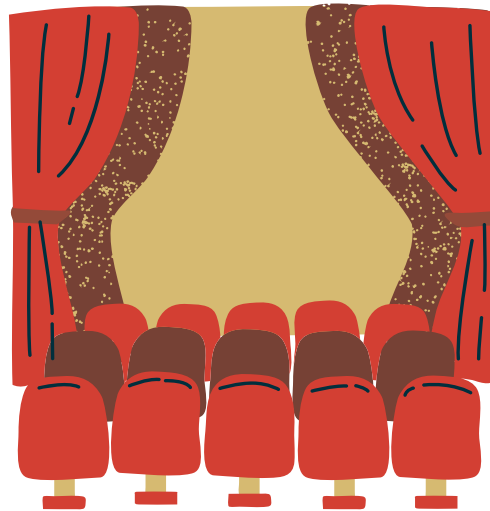
## 10. Who wrote Opening Night?

- ☒ **Loïc Petit**
- ☐ Xavier Hock
- ☐ Paul Edison

# WRITTEN EXPRESSION

For this exercise, students write a newspaper article about the murder of Miss Madison Reese from Opening Night. Encourage students to use all the details they know from the play, the character descriptions and the summary to help aid their story. Encourage creative licence, as students can make up some of the details.

As an extension, students can create the front page of the newspaper using canva.com.



# ORAL EXPRESSION

## GAME: Murder, Murder!

This game is designed to be fun and engage students in simple (to more complicated) chitchat (in a dramatic setting). Emphasis on all students having to speak is very important.

Begin by SETTING THE SCENE for the students: They are arriving at a party where they do not know the host or anyone else. They all received a random invitation. One student is secretly and randomly selected as the “murderer.” Students should have some time prior to develop a character: who are they? Where do they come from? Why would they come to a random party like this? A dark secret from their past?

You might decide to play the game in two parts - half the class watching and listening and half the class playing and then switch over.

Students begin by walking around the room shaking hands with one another and introducing themselves. As the “murderer” walks around shaking hands, they should quietly select a “victim.” When they shake hands, the “murderer” lightly tickles the “victim’s” hand with their finger. The “victim” then waits seconds so the “murderer” can move away, and ACTS out a dramatic death.

The party (class) may then stand in a circle, discussing who they believe is the “murderer.” The class can pick 3 suspects, and they must offer a reason for their accusation. The accused may DEFEND themselves. Once everyone has spoken, the class votes on who they believe is the “murderer.” The one with the most votes is out.

The game continues until either the murderer is discovered or is the only one left...

Reminders: Encourage students to CREATE A CHARACTER for themselves throughout the game. If you would like, you may give students names as a foundation for their character. If they are accused, they should develop a BACK-STORY/ALIBI. Those accusing should create a motive for their accusation.

After the game, there should be a debrief.

Debrief: How did the environment change once they knew there was a “murderer” among them? What changed about how they treated their “friends?” How did it feel to continue shaking hands with people? How did developing a backstory help them provide an alibi?

# CULTURE



Below is a quiz on some of the most famous both present and past detective and murder fiction. Students can read through the summaries and answer the questions. There is also a section selected from an article on superstitions of the theatre. Extra links have been included in case students want to do more investigation into the texts and authors.

**EXTENSION:** Select (or have students select) a few pages from the script of *The Mousetrap* to reenact/do a dramatic reading of the play. Below is also a link to a description of the characters and a trailer for the play.

## DOCUMENT 1



## DOCUMENT 2

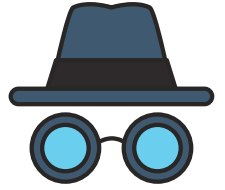


## A) AGATHA CHRISTIE



1. How many novels did Agatha Christie write?  
**66 detective novels and 14 short story collections.**
- 2; What was the name of her first short story written?  
**The House of Dreams**
- 3; What nationality is Agatha Christie's most well-known detective? **Belgian**
- 4; When did Agatha Christie begin writing? **18**
- 5; What is the name of the longest running play in the world?  
**The Mousetrap**

## B) THE BIG SLEEP



1. When was The Big Sleep written? **1939**
2. Which two newspapers rated The Big Sleep in the top 100 books of all time?  
**The Guardian, The Times**
3. How many novels does Marlowe, the detective, feature in? **7**
4. Where is The Big Sleep set? **L.A**
5. How is Detective Philip Marlowe's character described?  
**Cynical**



## C) MY FAVORITE MURDER

1. When was the first episode of My Favourite Murder released? **January 2016**
2. What are the names of the comedians who speak on the podcast?  
**Karen Kilgariff and Georgia Hardstark**
3. What is the name of the fans of the podcast? **Murderinos**
4. When did the podcast reach #1 on iTunes Top Comedy Podcasts? **October 2016**
5. In 2019, what happened for the podcast?  
**They were named by Forbes as the second-highest-ranking podcast ever.**

## D) KNIVES OUT/GLASS ONION

1.What is the name of the detective in Knives Out?

**Benoit Blanc**

2.What rating did the film receive on Rotten Tomatoes? **97%**

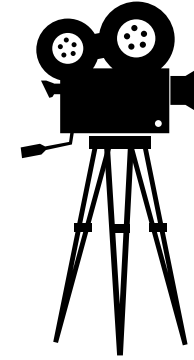
3.Who's murder is being investigated in the film and what is their profession?

**Harlan Thrombey and crime novelist**

4.What is a red herring?

**a clue or piece of information that is, or is intended to be, misleading or distracting**

5.Who directs the film? **Rian Johnson**



## E) SUPERSTITIONS IN THE THEATRE

1.Which bird feathers are not allowed on stage? **Peacock**

2.Which two plays can you quote from to reverse the jinx of saying “Macbeth” in a theatre?

**Two Gentlemen of Verona and A Midsummer Night’s Dream “If we shadows have offended” soliloquy**

3.Why is whistling backstage dangerous?

**It might cause a stagehand to lift or drop something backstage**

4.What is one belief for why people say “break a leg” instead of “good luck”?

**It is believed that mischief-making spirits of the stage who use their magic to force the opposite of what you wish to happen or it means you’ve crossed from the backstage into the playing area, the ultimate goal of an actor: entering the spotlight**

5. What is always left on in a theatre?

**The ghost light**

