

Big Idea: Style and concepts

The colour of Justice – Stephen Lawrence

Key Knowledge:

Stephen Lawrence was a [black British](#) teenager from [south east London](#), who was murdered in a [racially motivated attack](#) while waiting for a bus on the evening of 22 April 1993.

After the initial investigation, five suspects were arrested but not charged. It was suggested that he was killed because he was black, and that the handling of the case by the police was affected by issues of race. A 1998 [public inquiry](#), examined the original investigation and concluded that the force was [institutionally racist](#). It also recommended that the double jeopardy rule should be repealed in murder cases to allow a retrial upon new and compelling evidence. The report has been called "one of the most important moments in the modern history of criminal justice in Britain".

Verbatim theatre is a form of documented theatre in which plays are constructed from the precise words spoken by people interviewed about a particular event or topic. In year 9 we use the real story of Stephen Lawrence, and the real words documented in his trial know as 'the colour of justice.' Year 9 actors will learn the technique of debating where they will be asked to respond to controversial topics and consider how this case changed the British justice system.



Key Language:

Alienation – It involves the use of techniques designed to distance the audience from emotional involvement in the play through jolting reminders of the artificiality of the theatrical performance.

Direct address - Speaking directly to the audience breaks the fourth wall and destroys any illusion of reality.

Narration - Remind the audience that what they're watching is a presentation of a story.

Placards – A sign or additional piece of written information presented onstage. Using placards might be as simple as holding up a card or banner. Multimedia or a PowerPoint slideshow can also be used for this effect.

Prejudice - Prejudice is an affective feeling towards a person or group member based often on that person's group membership. The word is often used to refer to preconceived feelings towards people or a person because of their political affiliation, sex, gender, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality or race/ethnicity.

Key Skills:

Verbatim theatre
Forum theatre
Empathy
Thought tracking
Hot seating
Debating
Abstract techniques