



READING IS GOOD IDEA



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL
KNARESBOROUGH

Year 8 Reading homework LC1

Sure! Here's a reading task about Greek theatre suitable for Year 8 pupils. This task includes a short text, some comprehension questions, and a creative activity.

Text: The Origins of Greek Theatre

Greek theatre began in ancient Greece around the 6th century BCE. It started as a festival in honour of the god Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility. During these festivals, playwrights would compete by presenting their plays. The most famous playwrights of this time were Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides.

Greek theatre was performed in large outdoor amphitheatres, which could hold thousands of people. The audience sat in a semi-circle, allowing everyone to see and hear the performance. Actors wore masks that represented different characters and emotions, making it easier for the audience to understand who they were.

There were two main types of plays: tragedies and comedies. Tragedies often dealt with serious themes such as fate, love, and loss, while comedies were humorous and sometimes satirical, poking fun at society and politics.

One of the most famous Greek tragedies is "Oedipus Rex" by Sophocles, which tells the story of a man who unwittingly kills his father and marries his mother. On the other hand, a well-known comedy is "Lysistrata" by Aristophanes, where women go on a sex strike to end a war.

Greek theatre had a significant influence on modern drama and continues to be studied and performed today.

Comprehension Questions

1. What was the original purpose of Greek theatre?
2. Name two famous Greek playwrights and one type of play they wrote.
3. Describe the setting where Greek plays were performed.
4. What are the main differences between tragedies and comedies in Greek theatre?
5. Briefly summarize the story of "Oedipus Rex."



Different Benefits of Reading Books