

# Year 9 Teachers

## Features of Teachers

Godber writes with a fast paced and energetic style to keep audiences on their toes and intrigued.

Teachers is an **episodic play** written as a play within a play in which three students put on a performance to their teachers.

Everything in the play is reduced to the **bare essentials**, with very little set and the three actors playing twenty other parts.

However, Godber has said that it could also be performed with twenty different actors.

The action is set within a **'play-in-a-play' format**, which is something you must remember when watching or performing it; your character is a student acting the part of a teacher, dinner lady etc so you are in fact playing two characters at any one time. As a result the style of acting has to be exaggerated and energetic.

Godber also specified the use of contemporary chart music to keep the play current.

## Episodic Structure

An Episodic structure involves a large number of different characters and locations. It covers a lengthy period of time and typically involves sub plots in addition to the main story.

## Colloquial Language

Colloquial language is casual and conversational: it's the difference between "What are you going to do?" and "Whatchagonnado"

## Vocal Colour

Vocal colour is when the actors make the word sound like what it describes. The actor needs to feel what they are saying. It is tempting to just add power or volume but exploring tone and breath will also help you add vocal colour.

## Stereotypes and Exaggeration

A stereotype is "a widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing". Godber uses these stereotypes to draw out humour from his characters, exaggerating language and personality to create funny dialogue.

## Context of Teachers

Teachers was written in the 1980s however it is still politically and socially relevant to today. Many of the issues raised in the play are still current in today's schooling

### **Margaret Thatcher's changes to the Education System**

During the 1980's the UK's education system underwent a huge change.

Under Margaret Thatcher powers for Local Authorities to make decisions on their schools was reduced. The National Curriculum was introduced, initially for Maths, English and Science but it evolved over time to what we have now. League Tables and funding linked to student intake meant that management structures in schools became more market driven. It was important that parents wanted to send their children to the school to keep funding high. Thatcher wanted more fee paying schools who charged students yearly to attend their school.

## Emphasis

Emphasis is when an actor uses their voice to stress a given word or words when speaking to indicate particular importance.

## Inflection

Inflection is used by an actor to help express the text to the audience. It adds drama and passion, it helps bring the text to life

## Articulation

Articulation is the way of saying things more clearly. Good articulation in acting is when you say your words clearly and that they can be understood by the audience. Good articulation uses clear precise pronunciation not just raising the volume!

## Multi-roling

Multi-roling is when an actor plays more than one character onstage. The differences in character are marked by changing voice, movement, gesture and body language but the audience can clearly see that the same actor has taken on more than one **role**.

## Non-Speech

Non-speech (sometimes called non-words) in acting are sounds that are not speech used within the dialogue such as "umm"