

WEEK 4: PLAYWRITING 4

- Welcome to the fourth of our videos on theatre-making
 - Last time, we looked at journeys in the story
 - This week, we'll be looking at the ending

Contrast

- Exciting stories cover a lot of ground
- If a character is literally travelling from one place to another, we want them to end up many miles from where they started
 - It's not exciting if they only go round the corner to the shops
- Their emotional journey should match that
- We want the characters to change as much as possible throughout the story

A different World

- When the story began our Duckling was born into a beautiful, green and sunny world
- His lake was filled with life and he loved to swim in it
- At the end of the story, the world is very different
- The lake has frozen and he's terribly cold
- The Ugly Duckling was surrounded by ducks, now he's completely alone
- Things have never been worse for the duck
 - We fear he's going to die...
- This is highly dramatic
- We're left wondering, 'how is this going to end?'

The Resolution

- At the time of his greatest need, we meet some late arrivals...
- The swans find the duck

Reading: The Swans

Ugly Duckling: Why did you remove me from the ice?

First Swan: Alright, pal. I don't know what's happened to you, but you've clearly been through it...

Ugly Duckling: Oh, what would you know about that? With your long graceful necks and white wings, you must be royal birds. I bet you've never had a care in the world.

Second Swan: Is he serious?

Ugly Duckling: Just leave me alone.

First Swan: We were just going to grab a bite to eat. Come join us.

Ugly Duckling: But... You don't want to be seen with me. You're beautiful swans.

Third Swan: I think he's hit his head.

Ugly Duckling: No one wants me. I'm just an ugly duckling.

First Swan: I think you should look down, pal.

Ugly Duckling: What?

Second Swan: Just look into the ice.

Third Swan: Look at your reflection.

First Swan: Just trust us.

Ugly Duckling: Fine... but I know what I'll see. The reflection of a clumsy, dirty, bird.

Second Swan: The Ugly Duckling bowed his head over the lake.

Third Swan: And what did he see there, mirrored in the clear ice?

First Swan: The months had changed him.

Third Swan: He was no longer grey.

Second Swan: His feathers were a sleek, dazzling white.

Ugly Duckling: I'm a swan! I'm a swan! All this time, I never knew... Oh, thank you!

- The swans are completely different to the other characters
 - They're helpful and kind
- At last, the duckling has some friends
- The Ugly Duckling's journey is complete
 - He's found a new home
 - He belongs with his new family
 - He even looks different

- What's really exciting for the audience is that we know this is the start of a new chapter.
 - The Ugly Duckling no longer exits.
 - Now, it's all about The Confident Swan.

Over to you...

- Your fourth home exercise is to write your chain of events
- Work out what the key moments in the story are...
 - What's the situation?
 - What are the details?
 - What was the outcome?
- This should cover the key parts of the story
 - Beginning, middle and end
- Download the sheet from our website
 - Share them with us and we'll get back you
- Thanks for joining me. We have two bonus videos to follow
 - Taken by members of the GSC team
 - Explore further aspects of making theatre
- I hope you enjoy them!

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