

# Props

What are props?  
Why do they matter?

# Prop - Definition

- Is an object used on stage or on screen by actors during a performance or screen production. In practical terms, a **prop** is considered to be anything movable or portable on a stage or a set, distinct from the actors, scenery, costumes and electrical equipment.
- Why are props so important?
- Simply imagine your favourite film or TV show. Now imagine it with no props – the whole thing would fall apart!
- They enable us to create the world around the action (though in small scale productions, we have to be clever with the few props we have available)
- Remember props can be literal, or have a more symbolic meaning.

Sorry guys, I'm going to have to take those off you...



# Creating a mood through props

- Imagine you are a set designer. What props would you include to help communicate:
  - A comfortable family home
  - An unhappy family home
  - An old, haunted house
  - A futuristic house



On paper/in your books, make a mind map for each of these settings.

# From Prop to Person

- Take your prop.
- Think about – what sort of person would own/have this? Why? What's the story behind it?
- On your own, you have 3 minutes to create a short piece of drama speaking in role as your character about yourself
- Rehearse in pairs (so you can show each other your performance and offer guidance)



# Props as symbols

- In drama lessons, your access to props is generally quite limited.
- However, props can have symbolic significance and mean different things to different characters
- E.g. candle = light source/hope/danger/romantic atmosphere etc.
- You will be given a prop in groups of 4. You must create a short piece of drama which centres around that prop. Think carefully about symbolism and about how each character will react/interact with that prop.



# Props - Review

- What do props add to a performance?
- What do we mean by the idea of 'props as symbols'?
- Did your peers use props effectively in their performance? Why/why not?

