

“Theatre Literacy” Mini-Series

What is a director's concept?

Level: B1-C2	Duration: 45 minutes	Focus: Interpretation & vocabulary of vision
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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand and use key vocabulary: concept, interpretation, lens, staging
- Discuss how the same text can produce different meanings
- Practise expressing opinion and hypothetical thinking

KEY VOCABULARY

Word / Phrase	Definition	Example sentence
concept	a central idea that guides creative decisions	<i>The director's concept transformed the play completely.</i>
interpretation	a particular way of understanding or performing something	<i>Their interpretation of Hamlet was set in modern day.</i>
lens	(metaphor) a perspective through which something is viewed	<i>The production used a political lens to examine the story.</i>
staging	the way a play is arranged and presented on stage	<i>The staging was minimal — just two chairs and a light.</i>
aesthetic	relating to beauty and artistic appearance	<i>The aesthetic choices reflected the director's concept.</i>

LESSON PLAN

Time	Activity
5 min	<p>WARM-UP</p> <p>Write 'Hamlet' on the board. Ask: if you were making a film of Hamlet, what genre would it be? (thriller, horror, romcom?) Students discuss in pairs for 2 minutes, then share. Establish: same story, different interpretations.</p>
2 min	<p>WATCH</p> <p>Watch Video “Director’s Concept” (60–75 seconds). Ask students to listen for: what a concept is, and one example given in the video.</p>
5 min	<p>Comprehension check</p> <p>Quick oral Q&A: What is a director's concept? What example does the video give? What does the concept affect?</p>

8 min	<p>Vocabulary in context</p> <p>Students complete gap-fill sentences using the vocabulary words. Then peer-check.</p>
10 min	<p>Discussion task</p> <p>In groups of 3: Choose a well-known story (fairy tale, film, book). Decide on a concept — one word or phrase that would be your lens. How would it change the costumes? The lighting? The mood? Share with the class.</p>
8 min	<p>Writing task</p> <p>B1-B2: Write 3-4 sentences describing your concept and one design choice it would influence. C1-C2: Write a short paragraph arguing why a strong director's concept is essential to a successful production.</p>

EXTENSION (C1-C2)	HOMEWORK
<p>C1-C2: Research a famous production where the director's concept surprised audiences (e.g. a modern-dress Shakespeare). Write a short summary of the concept and its effect.</p>	<p>Find an image of a theatre production online. Write 2-3 sentences describing what you think the director's concept might be, based on what you can see.</p>