# Year 7 Drama: Storytelling through Greek Theatre

## Key Vocabulary

1. **Choral Speaking**: A performance technique where a group of actors recite a text together, using rhythm and harmony.
2. **Greek Chorus**: A group of performers in Ancient Greek theatre who provided commentary, insight, and reflection on the events of a play.
3. **Exaggeration**: A dramatic technique of magnifying or overstating something for emphasis or comedic effect.
4. **Unison Movement**: Coordinated movement performed by a group of actors, where they move simultaneously and in sync.

## Timeline of Important Events and Concepts

* **5th Century BCE**: The golden age of Ancient Greek theatre, with the development of tragedy and comedy.
* **Theatre of Dionysus**: The main theatre in Athens where the plays were performed in honour of the god Dionysus.
* **Greek Chorus**: Introduced by the Greek playwright Thespis, the chorus evolved as a central part of Greek theatre, providing commentary and adding to the story.
* **Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides**: Prominent Greek playwrights who wrote tragic plays with complex characters and profound themes.
* **Aristophanes**: A famous Greek playwright known for writing comedic plays filled with satire and social criticism.

## Useful Websites

1. [BBC Bitesize - Greek Theatre](https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7k7kqt)
   1. Provides an overview of Greek theatre and its key features.
2. [The British Museum - Ancient Greece](https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11/ancient-greece)
   1. Offers information on Ancient Greece, including theatre, for younger students.
3. [The Ancient Greece - Theatre](https://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/theatre/explore/exp_set.html)
   1. Explores Greek theatre through interactive activities and educational resources.

## Interesting Facts

* Greek theatre originated in Athens, Greece, and was part of religious festivals dedicated to Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility.
* Greek actors wore masks to portray different characters and exaggerated facial expressions.
* The Greek chorus could consist of up to 50 members, who often sang, danced, and interacted with the main characters.
* The audience of Greek theatre would often throw objects, such as fruit or vegetables, at the actors if they didn't like the performance.
* Ancient Greek plays continue to be performed and studied worldwide, showcasing their enduring influence.

## Endpoints

By the end of this topic, students should be able to:

1. Define and explain the key vocabulary related to Greek theatre: choral speaking, Greek chorus, exaggeration, and unison movement.
2. Understand the significance and purpose of the Greek chorus in Ancient Greek theatre.
3. Recognize and analyze examples of choral speaking, exaggeration, and unison movement in theatrical performances.
4. Identify the main characteristics of Ancient Greek theatre, including masks, amphitheatres, and communal participation.
5. Compare and contrast tragic and comedic elements in Greek theatre, using examples from plays such as Matilda.
6. Appreciate the historical and cultural importance of Ancient Greek theatre and its enduring influence on modern-day drama.

Remember to refer to your teacher if you have any questions or need further clarification on any of the topics covered.