Staging an Execution

AoS 6: Semiotics of Drama and Theatre

“The actor must use his imagination to be able to answer all questions (when, where, why, how). Make the make-believer existence more definite.”

- Constantine Stanislavski

Semiotics: Non-verbal signs used to communicate meaning.

The Task

Write 250 words to describe and then evaluate the effect of a use of semiotics in the moment Lear executes the worker.

Focus Questions:

Use the following questions to help you to structure your answer.

- Describe what you wanted the audience to think during your scene.
- Describe the scene that you create.
- Explain how you used semiotics to add additional meaning.
- Explain how the semiotics created mood.
- Explain how your audience might respond to this moment. What might they think or feel about the character or situation? What mood might be created?

Key Concept:

Semiotics are the unspoken symbols we use to create meaning on stage. Often, these appear in the form of lighting or sound, but often they can be the use of props, projections or even a performer’s body.