

What is a ritual?

A series of actions that are performed or carried out according to the customs of a particular group, culture, society

What is a Guild?

guild noun

Save Word

ˌɡɪld

variants: or less commonly *gild*

Definition of guild

- 1 : an association of people with similar interests or pursuits especially : a medieval association of merchants or craftsmen
- 2 : a group of organisms that use the same ecological resource in a similar way // a feeding guild

Medieval craft guilds became very important institutions that were designed to afford protection to both their members and the customers they served. Being a member of a craft guild was a prestigious position and allowed an individual to ply their trade or sell their products in their town. Skills were kept alive by ensuring that young apprentices were thoroughly trained by an older and more experienced guild member, a process that would often take years to complete. The guilds also set the prices the customers paid and they regulated their members, ensuring work was carried out to a high standard. This might include fining individuals, making them do a job again or even expelling them from the guild for poor workmanship. The guilds also raised money that could be used to support sick or older members and their families.

1. Each guild would take part in a parade in which their pageant wagon, showing a tableau or still image from their play, was presented at different locations around the town. All the pageants were then located to a single performance area, possibly around the town square where the audience would sit on raised scaffolding surrounding the acting area.
2. The pageant wagons were drawn to different stations along an accepted route where an audience would sit. The actors would stop, perform their play and then move on to the next location.
3. The performances happened outside town in a large circular area. The audience sat or stood within the 'round' as the action unfolded on static stages around the perimeter of the circle.
4. The pageants were placed in a long row with each 'house' representing a different setting. The audience sat in front of this elongated stage.

Access Vocabulary

Characterisation
Tableau Vivant
Pageant wagon
Morals
Gesture

Staging
Rituals
Religious beliefs
Heaven & Hell
Symbolism

YEAR 7 DRAMA – THE MYSTERIES

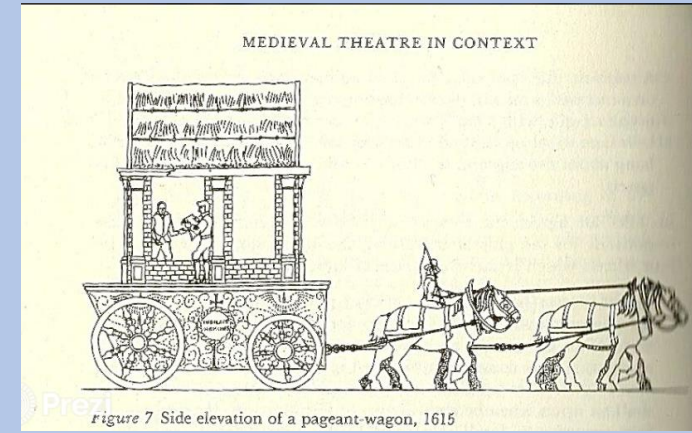
England’s Medieval Mystery Cycle Plays

Medieval mystery plays focused on the representation of Bible stories in churches as tableaux with accompanying antiphonal song. They told of subjects such as the Creation, Adam and Eve, the murder of Abel, and the Last Judgment. Often they were performed together in cycles which could last for days.



Pageant Wagons

- A stage on wheels
- Each guild had their own
- Two levels:
 - Upper: platform stage
 - Lower: curtained for a dressing room



What is symbolism?

A symbol is something which stands for, or represents something else. Symbols are often used in drama to deepen its meaning and remind the audience of the themes or issues it is discussing. A prop often has a particular significance that an audience will instantly recognise when used symbolically in the work. What might the following things symbolise or represent?



1. A white coat represents medicine, science, authority
2. A dove represents peace and tranquillity
3. A torn wedding photograph represents divorce or separation
4. A lamb represents new life, spring, innocence or sacrifice

Symbolic movements
Movement and actions can be symbolic too, particularly if you're using Physical theatre as a form. In Mark Wheeler's play, *Too Much Punch for Judy*, the keys being thrown are significant in certain important moments in the play. Remember that the meanings behind symbols can sometimes change within the same play.

Rehearsal / Performance / Evaluate:

What do I still need to do to be ready to perform in front of an audience?	Do I still need to get anything for a performance? e.g. props, costumes.	How well did I use rehearsal time?	How well did I work with my group?
Was I able to offer helpful suggestions to others?	What do I think would improve my performance?	How well did I stay on task?	How did I listen to feedback? Was I able to make any changes to my performance as a result?



KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS

HOT

What is a guild and why are they important in Mystery Cycle plays?

What is a story board? Explain when, how and why you could use one.

Explain why particular Guilds would be given certain stories to tell.

Explain how gesture would be used differently to body language when creating a ritual

COLD

What is role play?

Name a 'Guild' and a possible story they could be given

What drama skills could you use to create a 'ritual'?

What is the difference between direct audience address and thought tracking?



BRAIN QUESTIONS

What stage are you at?



What am I being asked to do?

What strategies can I use?

Have I used any effective strategies before?

What will I do first, next, after and last?



Is my strategy working?

Do I need to change my strategy?

What other strategies do I know?

What and who can help me?



How well did I do?

What went well?

What will I do differently next time?

Can I use this strategy for other subjects?