‘Coram Boy’

Homework Booklet



Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Task 1: Casting Act One Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Your task is to imagine you are in charge of casting the play ‘Coram Boy’. You can have any actor you want taking on the roles – but try to stick to the information provided as a rough guide! If you are able to, you can even add a picture of that actor in the box, but if you can’t then leave it blank.

***Extra challenge:*** Can you add some notes on why you chose that actor?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Character | Character Information | Actor | Picture (optional) |
| Meshak Gardiner | 14-year-old boy. We later learn he has red hair. He doesn’t go to school but helps out his father, Otis. |  |  |
| Otis Gardiner  | Meshak’s father. He’s not very caring to Meshak. Sells items in the streets, but also is known as the ‘Coram man’ for allegedly taking children to the Coram foundling hospital. |  |  |
| Alexander Ashbrook | Wealthy 15-year-old who is set to inherit his father’s title and business. His passion, however, is music. He takes the new choirboy under his wing. |  |  |
| Thomas Ledbury | New boy at Gloucester Cathedral’s choir. The teenager is there on a scholarship because he doesn’t come from a rich family but is a talented musician. |  |  |
| Lady Ashbrook | Wealthy mother of Alexander. Likes in the fancy Ashbrook house and dreams of opening an orphanage on the grounds. |  |  |
| Sir William Ashbrook | Husband of Lady Ashbrook and Alexander’s father. Doesn’t approve of his son’s love of music and is eager to get him learning how to take over from him with his ship business. |  |  |
| Isobel Ashbrook | Alexander’s younger, 13-yer-old sister described as ‘pretty and animated’ |  |  |
| Melissa Milcote | 15-year-old companion of Isobel. Described as ‘extremely lovely, with golden hair and piercing blue eyes. Loves Alexander (this happens very early on – not a spoiler!) |  |  |
| Mrs Milcote | Melissa’s mother, Lady Ashbrook’s cousin and governess to the younger Ashbrook children. She is keen for Melissa to marry Alexander after her husband left the pair with ‘nothing’. |  |  |
| Mrs Lynch | The Ashbrook’s housekeeper. Mrs Lynch is also involved with the Coram man – Otis Gardiner – in some way. |  |  |
| Alice Ashbrook | Alexander’s younger sister. Minor character. |  |  |
| Edward Ashbrook | Alexander’s younger brother. Minor character. |  |  |
| Dr Smith | Choirmaster at Gloucester Cathedral. Minor Character. |  |  |
| Miss Price | The magistrate Claymore’s ward – this means she has no parents so he is in charge of her upbringing. Minor character. |  |  |

**Task 2: Gloucester Docks**

Some of the play ‘Coram Boy’ is set in Gloucester docks. Research Gloucester docks and create a poster in the space below trying to persuade people. You can have a look at real adverts online to help inspire you.

**Task 3: Key words and definitions Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Note down the definitions for each of these words before learning both those definitions and also the spellings. You may be tested on these.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Word | Definition | Learnt? |
| Responsibility |  |  |
| Society |  |  |
| Moral |  |  |
| Immoral |  |  |
| Judgement |  |  |
| Prejudice |  |  |
| Scandalous |  |  |
| Abandonment  |  |  |
| Desperation  |  |  |
| Turmoil |  |  |

**Task 4: Diary Writing**

Choose one of the characters from the play, someone involved in the scenes you have just read. Then choose one of the tasks below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Challenge:** | **Super challenge:** |
| Imagine you are one of the characters from one of the scenes you have just read.Write a diary entry, or series of diary entries, exploring how that character feels about what is going on in the play at the moment. Really focus on presenting their emotions and feelings. | Imagine your school production this year is ‘Coram Boy’ and you have been cast as one of the characters. You have been rehearsing for the scenes you have just read in class.Write a diary entry or series of diary entries exploring how it feels to be playing that character. What are you struggling with? What is fun about playing this character? Can you draw on any of your own life to help you get into character? |

**Task 5: Casting Act Two**

The older characters may look quite similar, even though eight years has passed. Some characters are either new or will have changed looks because of the ages they were in Act One. Cast/ re-cast the following.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Character | Character Information | Actor | Picture (optional) |
| Aaron Dangerfield | Eight year old Aaron has grown up in the Foundling hospital and has a passion for music. |  |  |
| Toby Goddarn | Eight year old Toby is Aaron’s best friend. He is apprenticed to Philip Gaddarn and experiences racism and discrimination due to the colour of his skin and his African heritage. |  |  |
| Philip Gaddarn | Philip Gaddarn takes on Toby, who he treats cruelly and takes advantage of Toby’s heritage. He’s also involved in slave trade. You may want to make him look like Otis Gardiner – they are meant to be similar due to their actions. |  |  |
| Mish  | 22 year old who used to be known as Meshak Gardiner. He helps out at the Foundling hospital |  |  |
| Alexander Ashbrook | 22 year old Alexander ran away from home 8 years ago and hasn’t been home since. He has been cut off from his father’s wealth and was living in Switzerland teaching music. |  |  |
| Thomas Ledbury | 22 year old Thomas used to be best friends with Alexander but hasn’t seen him since. He is in charge of the choir at the Foundling hospital in London. |  |  |
| Melissa Milcote | 22 year old Melissa is still in love with Alex even though she hasn’t seen him in eight years. She is also still mourning the baby she had who she thinks didn’t survive. |  |  |

**Task 6: Key words and definitions Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Note down the definitions for each of these words before learning both those definitions and also the spellings. You may be tested on these.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Learnt?** |
| Grief  |  |  |
| Unexpected |  |  |
| Tumultuous |  |  |
| Advantageous |  |  |
| Trauma |  |  |
| Imposter |  |  |
| Reunion |  |  |
| Heritage |  |  |
| Escapade |  |  |
| Scheming |  |  |

**Task 8: Descriptive Writing**

Use the picture as inspiration for the tasks underneath. It is an image of the riverbank in London, a modern version of one of the settings in ‘Coram Boy’.

* Adjectives to describe the sky:
* Verbs and adverbs to describe the river moving:
* Similes and/ or metaphors for the buildings:
* Personification for the clouds and/ or weather:
* An idea for each of the five senses:

**Task 7: Life after the play**

You need to think about what happens next! Choose one of the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Challenge** | **Super Challenge** | **Mega Challenge** |
| Create a spider diagram with ideas for what you want to happen next. | Write a list of the main characters and add a line each for what could happen to them next. | Write an additional scene which follows on after the end of the play. |