



## The Knowledge: Dreadful Drama

**Author:** Rachel Wright  
**Genre:** Drama and Literature  
**Publisher:** London: Scholastic,  
**ISBN:** 0-439-99499-3  
**RRP:** £3.99 (+£2.80 p&p)

*Dreadful Drama, by Rachel Wright, one of The Knowledge series, is undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable, informative and interesting books I have recently read.*

An off-shoot of the popular *Horrible Histories*, the book's strategy is simple: humour makes learning fun, an idea enriched by the book's constant change of format. Its introduction makes the reader an active participant by asking them questions ('do you want to know how...'), whilst also making it clear that *this* book is different ('We guarantee you won't find anything in this book dreadfully dull'). Wright then moves on to a brief yet accurate history of theatre, incorporating a useful time-line of key events, illustrating how theatrical effects through the ages were achieved, and also how the reader can replicate them and even put on their own production. This is interspersed with quizzes, comic strips and jokes, all of which educate the reader in a light-hearted and effective way. *Dreadful Drama* concludes with a 'drama dictionary', in essence an easy-to-understand glossary that breaks down theatrical terminology to the point that almost any child - or even I - could understand it. Ultimately, then, in her book Wright adheres to the series' formula of producing a piece equally enjoyable to parents and children alike. (It worked for Harry Potter after all).

As a recent graduate in English, I covered many of the texts/practises to which Wright's book alludes in my studies. As such, I can honestly say that *Dreadful Drama* is an accurate, interesting and immensely enjoyable read that I would recommend wholeheartedly to young and old alike. I wish I had discovered it years ago.

9 sausages out of 10

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