

# Costume Drama

## Aims

The aim of this exercise is to help you to realise that costume drama is a very popular form of drama. It is expensive to make but is often seen as 'quality' television. It often involves the adaptation of a book.

## Activity

Watch a short piece of a costume drama on television or on video. Make a note of the name and whether it involved the adaptation of a book or a play.

1. How do the producers try and create an atmosphere of the past? Think about music, lighting, shots, opening credits etc.
2. How do the characters speak to each other?
3. In what period of history is the play set? How do you know?
4. Describe some of the props that are used.
5. Describe the costumes and the hairstyles that the characters have.
6. Is the drama the same as or different from the original book?
7. Who would enjoy this type of play?

## Summary questions

How are costume dramas different from more modern plays and stories?  
Use your notes from the whole module to help you.

## Development work

Suggest problems that you might experience if you were adapting a famous book or a play for television.

Suggest a book that you have read in English which would make a good costume drama.

## Assessment work and planning

Find out about famous costume dramas and historical plays which have become successful films: *Gone with the Wind*. Add notes to the folder.