



**THESE WALLS** YORK CASTLE PRISON

Introduction to the  
**These Walls**  
Courtroom Role Play Lesson

# Learning objectives

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This lesson will help you to:

- Be able to participate in a formal debate
- Be able to assess evidence provided and present a reasoned argument
- Be able to compare viewpoints and reach a decision
- Be able to identify the key roles in a courtroom situation
- Have the opportunity to improvise and perform in a dramatic setting, using role, tone, volume and mood

# Background information

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You will start by watching highlights of a performance by the York Theatre Royal Youth Theatre working in partnership with York Castle Museum.

The performance is based in part on a true story of a young woman who was hanged at York Castle in 1803 at the age of 19 for allegedly killing her new-born baby.



# Getting into role...

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Each member of the class will now be assigned a role and provided with a briefing sheet. The roles are:

- Judge and jury members
- A witness for the prosecution (Annabella Wilson)
- The defendant (Martha Chapel)
- Members of the defence legal team
- Members of the prosecution legal team

# Keeping order in the courtroom...

Now that you have prepared for your roles this is the courtroom process that we will be following:

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- 1) Prosecution opening statement / argument
- 2) Prosecution to call their witness and ask them two questions
- 3) Defence to cross examine the witness (two questions)
- 4) Defence opening statement / argument
- 5) Defence to call the defendant and ask them two questions
- 6) Prosecution to cross examine the defendant (two questions)
- 7) Prosecution Closing Speech
- 8) Defence Closing Speech
- 9) Judge to direct the jury
- 10) The jury must then agree on whether or not they find Martha guilty and the foreperson will present their verdict.
- 11) The judge will summarise and announce the verdict / sentence.

# Time for reflection...



# Questions and next steps

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- Any questions?
- Homework and next steps.