



SAFFRON WALDEN
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

SWCHS SIXTH FORM SUMMER WORK

A Level Drama & Theatre

TASK

1. **Chimerica** by Lucy Kirkwood
2. **Machinal** by Sophie Treadwell

If you have any queries regarding this work please email amcllwaine@swchs.net

Task

All instructions are detailed on the Eduqas Summer Work document.

How will this work be used in lessons?

We teach both set texts from the start and this base knowledge will give some necessary understanding as we work.

How long will this task take?

1 Hour per task

Summer Work 2: Component 3 Research

CHIMERICA” by Lucy Kirkwood

PLOT SUMMARY: 5 June 1989, Beijing. Amidst the bloody suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests, an unarmed man steps in front of a column of tanks. The tanks stop. From a hotel room nearby, Joe Schofield, a young photojournalist from America, captures the moment on camera. The Tank Man’s face is not visible; his identity and fate are unknown. Twenty-three years later, in 2012, as America decides between Obama and Romney, Joe’s long-time friend in China, Zhang Lin, hints that the hero of that Tiananmen Square photo might have survived and moved to New York. Joe launches into an investigation that threatens his career, his relationships, and his personal ethics.

TASK

Using the resources below, complete the following:

1. Research Tiananmen Square: Summarise in 5 Bullet Points your findings:

You should include the following:

China in 1980s; causes of protests; its consequences; how does China treat any references to Tiananmen Square today

2. Research the background to the play itself: Summarise in 5 bullet points your finding: You should include the following:

Lucy Kirkwood and reaction to original production

Origin of the term “Chimerica” and East/West relationships

Ethics of Journalism

<http://headlong.co.uk/work/chimerica/explore/>
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8070177.stm>

Summer Work 3: Component 3 Research

MACHINAL” by Sophie Treadwell

PLOT SUMMARY The city. A woman is restless. A woman is suffocating. A woman is silenced. The woman revolts. Machinal follows the life of Young Woman who, constrained by a society that favours men and money, marries her employer despite not loving him. As we move through her life from marriage, to honeymoon, into motherhood and eventually an affair, the audience are asked to question if it is possible for women to live independently of men. It is the story of a woman battling the consequences of decisions she felt powerless to overturn, a woman who murders her husband to free herself from a suffocating marriage, a woman finding agency in her life

TASK

The playwright, Sophie Treadwell, based the play on the real-life case of Ruth Snyder who murdered her husband and was the first woman to be executed in the electric chair.

- a) Research this case, (using the link below) and Sophie Treadwell (including the original production)
- b) Summarise your findings in 5 Key Bullet Points
- c) What were the expectations for Men and Women in the 1920s? Have has these changed?

https://resource.download.wjec.co.uk/vtc/2019-20/WJEC19-20_1-16/pdf/machinal.pdf