

Theatre Activity: It's Alive!

In this Activity: Within this activity students will be asked to choose a character from a book and bring it to life. Starting with words, then with the students bodies, and finally with words again.

Literacy: Reading, Extrapolating, and Empathic Literacy

Why?: Delve deeper into the character's of a book you are reading in class. Work on empathy as well as character development.

Ages: Sixth-Eighth

How:

- Pick a book that the class is already reading as part of the curriculum.
- Have each student in the class choose from a list of characters chosen by the teacher.
- The students will then be given a series of prompts to help delve deeper into who this character is and how they interact with the world around them.
 - The first prompt should be something simple.
 - *What does a typical day look like for this character?*
 - The prompts will then move into more focused topics based on the write up the students have done.
 - For example, *what does this character carry around in his or her pocket on a daily basis? Or if this character found ten dollars on the ground what would he or she do with it?*
- The teacher will read these prompts aloud as the students close their eyes and think about the answers to these questions. Once the students have had time to process these prompts they will be asked to stand up and embody how they believe these characters.
 - The teacher will give a series of prompts about the character's physical movements while the students are walking around the room.
 - *What part of the body does your character lead with when they are walking? Do they lead with their nose or with their knees? What happens to their body movement when they are given some good news or bad news? Do they have a specific nervous tick when they are getting stressed out?*
- Once the students have completed this section of the activity they will then be asked to write a full character breakdown including the information they have developed within working on the previous prompts.
- Once completed the students should create scenes in which these characters interact with one another. This scene should be a 'missing scene' from the novel.
 - They will be asked to set the stage for a location, a relationship, a complication, and a resolution.

- After writing the basis for the scene the students will be asked to write a script, using the character descriptions they have created before, to show the interaction between the two or three characters.
- Once again this script MUST include the four aforementioned pieces and should be a 'missing scene' from the original novel.
- Each group of students will be asked to hand in their scripts and include the character breakdowns/descriptions, 'day in the life of' write ups, and deeper analysis of their characters.

(EXTRA)

Modification:

For younger ages it is important to not bombard them with too many individual prompts whereas with the older students it might be more important to use more varied prompts to keep them from constantly writing short and repetitive responses.