

LESSON THREE

Learning Objective: TO TELL STORIES THROUGH MIME AND OTHER MOVEMENT.

Welcome back true believers! In this drama lesson the children will be acting out stories through mime, movement and expression, without the luxury of using their voices. This reflects the opening of ‘Singin’ in the Rain’ where the movies were always silent. We begin with two mime and movement games.

DRESSING UP BOX

* Have your children sitting in a circle.
* Inform them that in the middle of the circle is a dressing up box full of wonderful costumes.
* Instruct the children that one at a time they must enter the circle, mime opening the box and then peruse what’s inside.
* They must decide on a costume they want to wear, for example a cowboy costume or a robot costume. They mime putting on the costume and then act out whatever character they are, so if they were a cowboy they may ride on a horse or fire their pistols in the air. The child who guesses the right answer wins the next turn.

This is a fabulous exercise for the children to rely on their actions and expression to make things clear.

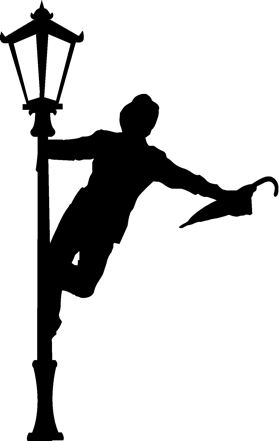
**SCLUPTOR AND OBJECT**

In pairs, one person (A) is the sculptor and the other (B) is the block of clay. ‘B’ begins by standing in a neutral position; the sculptor slowly moves ‘B’s body into a new position according to the theme that is being explored. Ideally this is done without talking so that all communication is through body-language. Facial expressions can be shown by the sculptor for the statue to copy.

Many themes can be explored using this popular technique and some examples are listed below. Once the statues are made, an ‘exhibition’ can be held so that the sculptors walk around and look at each other’s creations. After this they can swop over. Sculpting can also be done by small groups, with one person being moulded by the others until they reach consensus.

* Remember that it is difficult to hold a physical position for a long period, so give a time-limit.
* You may like to give the sculptors paper and pen so that they can write a title or caption for their masterpiece and put it in front of the statue.

**Useful themes include:**  
Emotions  
Animals  
Hobbies  
Occupations  
Characters from a story  
Modern art



**CAUGHT IN THE ACT!**

Now it’s time to put their miming skills to the test. Inform your students that they will now tell a story through three pictures. A story of mischief. Ask them if they have ever been caught doing something they shouldn’t. For example, stealing a biscuit from the biscuit tin or other shenanigans. After discussion allocate them into small groups and ask them to create three tables they could go further with ideas and it be something as dramatic as a bank robbery, or stealing jewels. The tableaus are as follows:

* Committing the crime
* Being caught
* The Consequences of the action/s

Once preformed, now ask them to take those three pictures and turn them into a scene but without voices and sounds. Encourage body language and emotions.

This is a wonderful exercise for storytelling and should give a good understanding that sound isn’t necessarily essential for getting ideas across and communicating.