

Lesson: Pantomime

Artform: Drama

Skill Level: Low

Teaching Artist: Nanci Dorau

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this lesson we will study pantomime, which is acting without speaking. It is like playing the game “Charades”. Pantomime study and practice makes us more aware of our bodies and what our bodies must do to get a message across.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Pantomime is acting without speaking. It is like playing the game “Charades”. An actor doing pantomime could be called a “Mime”. There are some very famous mimes and actors from silent movies.

MATERIALS

- Computer and internet with parental guidance
- A large mirror (bathroom, bedroom)
- Paper, pencil, bowl or box

ACTIVITIES

Here are some of them famous Mimes.

1. Marcel Marceau



2. Charlie Chaplin



These men were very funny mimes from a long time ago. You may not see many mimes today but there are some. And yes, there are women mimes! Look up these mimes on Google to see what their performances were like. There will be some YouTube videos listed at the end of this lesson for you to watch mimes in action! A lot of acting games involve pantomime. Let's play a couple.

A. Acting Games:

1. Mirror Game:

a. This game may work better if there are 2 people playing the game and the student observes them. You may also hold the student's hands to have them understand the concept of following.

b. The student may also work well with a real mirror at first to understand how his reflection moves with him.

c. This follow the leader game needs 2 people. Play soft music and have the partners face each other. One person is the leader and the other person must follow every move as if he is the reflection in the mirror.

d. Make sure the leader uses arms, legs, and different levels such as going on tip toes and bending knees. Dance, do exercises such as jumping jacks, or make faces, use your imagination.

e. Switch places, so that each has a turn being the leader.

3. Pantomime:

a. Cut the paper into small strips. Write a thing for the person to pantomime on each strip.

b. The easiest subjects would be animals. Have the student pick out the animals they like best from a book. Fold and place them into the bowl or box or bag. Examples below.

c. Have your student pull out one of the strips and read it silently or read it to them.

d. Have the student act out what the paper says without talking.

e. Have others guess what the actor is doing.

Examples:

Play baseball.

Take the dog for a walk.

Eat an ice cream cone.

Be a teacher.

Play the guitar.

Be a tiger.

B. YouTube videos to watch about pantomime.

1. "Kids Meet A Mime | Kids Meet | HiHo K

2. "Lucille Ball and Harpo Marx the Mirror Routine"

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN

If there is an activity that involves using the hands and this is difficult for the student, use the 'hand over hand' (your hand on top of theirs) or 'hand under hand' (your hand under their hand) technique to guide them through the activity. Students with visual impairment will need the directions and information read to them. Those with hearing impairment may need to use American Sign Language. Lifeprint.com is a wonderful website to learn ASL. Check it out! Those students who are nonverbal may use their speaking devices. Let the student be creative in their own way and encourage them to do the activity only to the best of their own ability. Remember "there is no disability in the Arts" and there is no wrong answer with these lesson plans. Have fun with these activities.

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