

Lesson: Constructing a Character

Activity 1:

Warm up: Exaggeration Circle

1. Stand in a large circle.
2. One student is the first player. This student is to create and perform a small movement of their choice.
3. The next player (the student to their left) takes over the movement and makes it even bigger. This student exaggerates the original movement.
4. This continues all the way around the circle until the last person takes the movement to the EXTREME.

Activity 2:

Group Activity: Character Cards

1. You will be given a [Drama Character Card](#).
2. Brainstorm with your class about who your character might be.
3. Possible details of your character might be: name/age/location/hobbies/likes/dislikes/family.
4. Discuss:
 - *Why do you think this about this character?*
 - *Do you know anyone that reminds you of this character?*
 - *Does anyone have the same character card but think something different about their character?*
 - *Have you ever made an assumption about a person and then found out that your assumption was incorrect?*

Activity 3:

Individual Activity: Establishing Character

1. Complete a set of questions to help create your character.
2. You will be provided with scenarios to choose from.
3. Decide how the character that you created would act in your scenario.
4. Look at the example scenario on the whiteboard.

Can you identify where you:

 - *Might change your voice to emphasise certain words, e.g. "REALLY!"*
 - *Add gestures to express emotions e.g. hands over ears in fear of a balloon popping.*
 - *Include movement such as moving quickly from one side of the stage to the other.*
7. During planning time, focus on incorporating the dramatic elements of voice, gesture and movement to create their character.

Activity 4:

Presentation

1. Present your character to the class.
2. Question and reflect on students' choices and assumptions in their character building.

Example questions/comments:

- *Why did you choose to do _____ with your body?*
- *I could tell that your character was unhappy when you put your hands on your hips.*
- *Could you have used your voice to make “really” sound more like a question?*
- *When you moved quickly across the stage I could see that you were feeling angry.*