

Using Drama with Children

Learning Module

Explore how using drama strategies will help children experience and engage with stories in rich and imaginative ways.

This module provides examples of creating engagement with children through drama by using sound effects, props, movement, and role play. The included resources start with demonstrations using sound and simple props and then progress to more elaborate uses of props and costumes.

Included Resources and Experiences:

1. Imaginary Travel: Enhancing Dramatic Role Play through Sound
2. Imaginary Travel: Establishing Setting with Props and Role Play
3. I Have a Box: Exploring Setting and Characterization
4. Coffee Can Theater: Tutorial
5. Teacher in Role: Transitioning in and out of Character

1. IMAGINARY TRAVEL: ENHANCING DRAMATIC ROLE PLAY THROUGH SOUND

Developed by Valerie Bayne Carroll and Michele Valeri

Description and Objectives:

In this experience, Wolf Trap Teaching Artists Valerie Bayne Carroll and Michele Valeri demonstrate how to travel into a story and experience it on a new level using pictures, sound effects, and music.

Through imaginary travel, children engage in abstract thinking and problem solving.

Associated Media:

1. *Instructional Documentation: Stages for Learning: Imaginary Travel.pdf* (440.03 KB)
2. Video Demonstration
3. This Old Man (Hot Samba) by the Wolf Trap Jazz Trio.mp3 (4.72 MB)
4. Jamming in G by Glen McCarthy.mp3 (3.95 MB)
5. Ocean Soundscape by Freesound Artists.mp3 (1.7 MB)
6. Rainforest Soundscape by Freesound Artists.mp3 (2.62 MB)
7. Barnyard Sounds by Freesound Artists.mp3 (1.56 MB)
8. Magic Sound 1 by Freesound Artists.mp3 (103.62 KB)
9. Magic Sound 2 by Freesound Artists.mp3 (109.32 KB)

You can find this individual content here:

<https://education.wolftrap.org/content/stages-learning-imaginary-travel>

2. IMAGINARY TRAVEL: ESTABLISHING SETTING WITH PROPS AND ROLE PLAY

Developed by Kofi Dennis

Description and Objectives:

In this experience, Wolf Trap Teaching Artist Kofi Dennis demonstrates how to use props, sound effects, and imagination to help children develop vocabulary and critical-thinking skills.

Associated Media:

1. *Instructional Documentation: Imaginary Travel--Establishing Setting with Props and Role Play.pdf* (88.87 KB)
2. Video Demonstration

You can find this individual content here:

<https://education.wolftrap.org/content/imaginary-travel-establishing-setting-props-and-role-play>

3. I HAVE A BOX: EXPLORING SETTING AND CHARACTERIZATION

Developed by Katherine Lyons

Description and Objectives:

In this experience, Wolf Trap Teaching Artist Katherine Lyons demonstrates the use of gestures to represent real objects and introduce characters of a story.

This experience encourages children to use gesture to represent real objects and to visualize and create characters of the story through movement and sound.

Associated Media:

1. *Instructional Documentation: I Have A Box - Exploring Setting and Characterization.pdf* (624.27 KB)
2. Video Demonstration

You can find this individual content here:

<https://education.wolftrap.org/content/i-have-box-exploring-setting-and-characterization>

4. COFFEE CAN THEATER: TUTORIAL

Developed by Melissa Richardson

Description and Objectives:

In this experience, Wolf Trap Teaching Artist Melissa Richardson demonstrates how to create a coffee can theater experience using manipulatives found around the house or classroom.

Coffee can theater is a strategy for sharing stories in which the teller uses small props to stand in for characters and elements of setting. Children can then retell and sequence the story in a hands-on way. Coffee can theater can also be used to create original class stories.

Associated Media:

1. *Instructional Documentation: Coffee Can Theater Tutorial.pdf* (452.86 KB)
2. Video Demonstration

You can find this individual content here:

<https://education.wolftrap.org/content/coffee-can-theater-tutorial>

5. TEACHER IN ROLE: TRANSITIONING IN AND OUT OF CHARACTER

Developed by Jeanne Wall

Description and Objectives:

In this experience, Wolf Trap Teaching Artist Jeanne Wall demonstrates how an educator can transition in and out of character for dramatic play.

Teacher in role is an easy technique that allows the teacher to incorporate dramatic play and to lead the class from inside the dramatic play. In this example, the teacher introduces a story or experience with a puppet before then taking on the puppet's character through teacher in role.

Associated Media:

1. *Instructional Documentation: Teacher in Role--Transitioning in and out of Character.pdf* (94.25 KB)
2. Video Demonstration

You can find this individual content here:

<https://education.wolftrap.org/content/teacher-role-transitioning-and-out-character>