

Futures - Drama

Aims

To explore the importance of dreams and ambitions

To learn how to create still images and communicate clearly to an audience through drama

Activity description

Pupils will explore how drama can be used to develop scenarios looking at the future. This activity is appropriate for a school or group setting.

Starter activity

Speed Devising Still Images

In groups of 4-5, create the still images described below. You should think about what is happening in each scenario, including who and what would be present in the location.

- Make a still image of a... school classroom.
- Make a still image of a... sunny day at the seaside.
- Make a still image of a... crowd at a football match celebrating a goal being scored.

You have 1 minute to create each still image. Some of the images can then be shown. As a group, discuss whether the image is communicating clearly to the audience; can the audience tell where the image is set? How can they tell? Is it clear who the people are? How? Are there any changes that could be made to communicate the location or scenario more clearly to the audience?

Main activity:

Dreams and Ambitions Still images

Individually, take a moment to think about your dreams and ambitions for the future. On paper write down:

- The sort of person you want to be (clever, kind)
- A dream opportunity (deep-sea diving with sharks)
- Something that you would like to achieve (top grades at school)
- Something that you hope to have in the future (a car)
- Where you would like to live (close to home)
- The job or jobs you are interested in doing (being a 5-star chef)

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Working in groups of 4-5, each group member should share one of their dreams or ambitions. The group will choose 3 out of these shared dreams or ambitions to make still images. These should then be shown to the rest of the class. The audience must try to work out what each still image represents.

Still Image Tips:

As there are no sounds or movements in still images, it is important for you to think about how we use our bodies to show the audience what is happening.

Consider using the following techniques to make an effective still image:

- **Physical theatre:** Physical theatre is the technique of using the body to represent objects or characters. It's a great technique to use when doing drama without props, costumes or set. (Example: kneeling on hands and knees to represent a table.)
- **Levels and positioning:** Actors can be placed at different heights and positions across the stage. For example, lying down in the centre, high off the ground to the side, or standing at the back. Thinking carefully about levels and positioning in drama is great for many reasons; it makes sure the audience can see everything clearly, it helps to make the drama more visually interesting, it helps the audience to understand the importance of a character and helps the audience to understand the situation being presented.
- **Facial expressions:** Using different facial expressions helps the audience to understand the emotions of the characters, how they are feeling, and what is going on in the story. Think about how you are using facial expressions to communicate your emotion in the scene.
- **Body language:** Body language helps to communicate emotion and show relationships between characters. Body language could be shown through how a character stands or a gesture they might use. (Example: pointing towards another character could show they are angry with the other person.)



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Extension activity:

Documenting and exploring the theme further.

Document

You could photograph your still image and print it before adding more detail to it; this could include speech or thought bubbles for the characters that provide an explanation of what the dream or ambition is and why they have chosen it.

Bring to life:

You could choose one of the still images and try bringing it to life for 5-10 seconds, adding movement and dialogue to add further meaning to the scenario. Start and finish in a still image to perform a clearly defined beginning, middle, and end.

Time required:

45 minutes

Materials required:

Pen and paper, camera for documentation, printer.

