

UNEX Cultivating Oral Expression



Title: Silent Movie

Silent Movie

Keywords: #silent movie, #creativity, #story without words, #nonverbal communication

Duration: *Approximately 30 mins.*

Description:

This activity is a great warmer for classes that requires absolutely no preparation. As long as the teacher has pens and paper, the activity can be done at any point! The purpose of this exercise is to provide the students a great opportunity to act out and read nonverbal messages.

Objectives:

1. Nonverbal communication
2. Creativity
3. Focus

Activity(ies) (Stages):

The teacher has to divide the students into two or more groups.

For the first half of the class, some students will be playing the role of screenwriters and actors while the rest of the class would guess the story. Roles will switch for the second half.

The screenwriter students will write a silent movie scene, with the following directions in mind:

1. Silent movies tell a story without words. It is important to start the scene with a person doing an obvious task, like cleaning the house or rowing a boat.
2. This scene is interrupted when a second actor (or several actors) enters the scene. The appearance of the new actor/s has a big impact. Moreover, the new characters could be animals, burglars, children, salesmen, etc.
3. A physical commotion takes place.
4. The problem is resolved.
5. The acting groups will perform the script(s) while the rest of the class sits back and enjoys the show.
6. After each silent movie, the audience should guess the story, including the conflict and resolution.

Tips for trainers

Popcorn is a good addition to this activity.

The scenarios can be prepared in advance from the students as their homework.

Moreover the students can include pictures/ presentation for a background of their movie to be more realistic. For example if the scene is on a boat, there could be projected picture of a sea or for background.

List of resources, materials etc.

- Pen/Pencil
- Paper
- Projector
- Black board

Evaluation/Feedback

The teacher will provide feedback on the applicability of the method.

The teacher evaluates students' comprehension ability after each activity, according to the presented results.