

Conflict

Educational Objective: The students will demonstrate their ability to recognize the importance of conflict in drama by changing the conflict in a children's story and then performing it.

Materials Needed: Two video clips of a typical action film (Indiana Jones, 007) one must not reveal the antagonist (see step 2).

Hook: Show a video clip of a film where the protagonist and antagonist meet at the very beginning and establish the conflict at the very beginning.

Step 1: Talk about how the good guy and the bad guy meet at the very beginning and establish the conflict for the entire story. Who wins? The bad guy usually wins at the beginning or the conflict would be over and thus ends the story. Talk about how the bad guy usually gets bigger and more wins through out the story until the end.

Step 2: Show another video clip of a movie where the protagonist and antagonist meet in the beginning but the good guy does not know the bad guy is the bad guy (Golden Eye, etc.). Discuss this technique. Have they seen any other films, plays or stories that hide the identity of the antagonist?

Step 3: Put the class into groups of four. Have each group choose a fairy tale or children's' story to perform. Instead of performing it as we all know it, they must add three more points of conflict where the antagonist wins the round but the protagonist survives to make it to the climax which must be the biggest point of conflict, where the protagonist wins. Give them 10 minutes to prepare.

Step 4: Have them perform. Discuss each group's performance. Did they added conflicts to the story? Did the extra conflicts make the story better? Why or why not? Did the constant losing of the protagonist during the story give us a greater victory at the end?

Step 5: In their same groups and using the same stories, have them now switch the protagonist and the antagonist (for example, the Wolf in Red Ridding hood is now the good guy). Of course, this means that they have to completely change the conflict, which in, turn will change the story. They must have the three building conflicts and then the final conflict just as before. Give them 10 minutes to prepare.

Step 6: Have them perform their stories.

Step 7: Discuss how conflict is the base for all drama. How did the conflict shape the story? In the best stories the conflict drives the storyline. How did the conflict shape the characters? Emphasis that conflict is the driving force behind all drama.