

Conquering Stage Fright

Educational Objectives: The students will demonstrate their ability to overcome stage fright by performing a short comedy act, alone, for their classmates.

Materials Needed: A paper bag for each student large enough to fit over students' heads, markers, pens, scissors, slips of paper, Jokes.

Hook: Write on the board "The Unknown Comic" and then exit the room. Enter the class with a paper bag pulled over your head with two eye holes and a mouth hole cut in the bag. Tell several Jokes as the "Unknown Comic" then exit the room. Return with your bag under arm.

Step 1: Give each student three slips of paper and ask them to write down a short joke on each slip. Remind them no racial or crude jokes. Put a container out and tell them to fold their jokes up and put them into the container when they are done. (This may take a while for some students to think of the jokes so go on to step 2 while they are thinking).

Step 2: Give each student a paper bag. Supply markers, pens and scissors. Instruct the students to create their own "Unknown Comic" bag and that they will be wearing them later on. They may not want to show anyone until it is their turn. Wait until everyone is done with step 1 & 2 before you move on.

Step 3: Have each student draw three jokes out of the container. It does not matter if they draw their own. Put them with partners and have them practice telling the jokes to one another with their partner making suggestion on how to improve the delivery. Give them 6 or 7 minutes.

Step 4: In turn, have each student put their bag over their head, stand in front of the class and tell their three jokes as the "Unknown Comic".

Step 5: Have the students work alone to create a new act with their own new jokes. The teacher may supply a list of jokes on slips of paper in a container and let them draw several if they cannot think of enough jokes on their own. Without the paper bag, the students have one minute to perform their routine.

Step 6: Discuss and evaluate the different styles, comic timing. Who was more comfortable with the bag on their head rather than off?