

Pantomime 1 – Space and Click

Educational Objective: The students will demonstrate their ability to use their body in dramatic form by performing a non-story Pantomime.

Materials needed: Video Tapes of Pantomime (Red Skelton, Vaudeville Stars, Mr. Bean, etc.)

Hook: Play “Red Ball.” Everyone stands in a circle. All of the balls in this game are imaginary. The players will mime them. Start by giving one player the red ball by making eye contact and saying “red ball” and then toss the ball to him. He then does the same to someone else. Toss the red ball around to everyone. Then add another ball. The red ball keeps going and then toss in a blue ball. After a bit stop and see where the balls are. Add a green ball. Stop after a while and see if all the balls are still going and accounted for. Keep adding balls. Stop once in a while and check on all the balls. If they aren’t there or if there are two of one then straighten it out and start again. If they are right then add another ball. Ping pong ball, beach ball, curve ball, bowling ball, super ball, high ball, crystal ball, Lucille Ball, etc.

Step 1: Show a video clip of pantomime.

Step 2: Have the students stand in a circle. Stand in the middle and tell them to pick up and imagine a phone and speak into it. Not how many talked into their finger and how many people gave the phone actual space. Talk about giving space to objects. Even the smallest objects have space. Have them try other objects – A cup, a pencil, a baseball, a plate, a toothpick. Have them sit down.

Step 3: Have one student come forward and demonstrate brushing teeth. Most likely, the student will brush her cheek or down her throat. Show that it will be believable if they do it the way that they really do it. They need to practice and observe themselves and the way they do things. Tell them to be conscious of all their actions. Have them all brush their teeth realistically.

Step 4: Discuss: When we pantomime we need to face the audience. There is a big tendency to turn your back on the audience because that's how things "really" are. To show an example, have them form an audience and then set up your kitchen with chairs or blocks. Show that some things are in front and some in back. Demonstrate how easy it is to turn your back on the audience. Now rearrange the kitchen so your face can be seen by the audience no matter what appliance or counter you are working at.

Step 5: Show them the "click". Pick up an imaginary glass of water with the click and put it down likewise. The “click” is a slight jerk of the hand as it picks up the glass or your hand meets another force (like a door handle or any other object). Have them do it. Have them drink out of the glass. Make believable movements drinking the water. Have them try opening a cabinet door using the click. Have them open a door with a click. Have them pick up the water off an imaginary table and put it back down in the same place.

Step 6: Now set up the space with an imaginary door and table. Show them where the door and table are. Tell them they will each perform a short pantomime in where they enter the door, approach the table and pick up and use three imaginary objects which they make up. Then exit through the door. Give them 5 minutes to practice and then they will perform in front of the class.

Step 7: Discuss the pantomimes. How did they look? What makes it look good? Bad?