

CHARACTERS HAVE PERSONALITIES

CHARACTER GREETINGS - A PRE-IMPROVISATION EXERCISE

GRADES K-6

TH:Cr2.a
TH:Pr4.1.a
TH:Re7.1.a
TH:Re9.1.a

Lesson by
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DURATION: 10 minutes

21st CENTURY SKILLS:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Critical thinking | <input type="checkbox"/> Information literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> Media literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology literacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Productivity |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flexibility | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social skills |

BACKGROUND and DIRECTIONS

This is a quick way for students to explore personalities is through this quick exercise. It might also give them ideas of how characters might react differently to each other.

Have the entire group form two lines facing each other. Each side is given a line, such as "Hi, how are you?" And the players on the other side say "Fine, thank you." The leader calls out a way of greeting such as "Greet each other as if you are old friends." Next, the players walk toward each other, meet in the middle and deliver their lines 'in character.' The point of this game is to show how one line of dialogue can change dramatically given different characters and situations.

EXAMPLES OF WAYS TO GREET EACH OTHER

- Like old enemies
- Like snobs
- Like long lost friends
- Like people in a big hurry
- Like business executives
- Like old people
- Like young children
- Angrily
- Sadly crying
- In a bored manner
- Extremely politely
- Very shyly, scared
- As if on a cold day
- As if on a sweltering hot day
- While giggling
- With accents
- Like suspicious spies
- Like robots
- Like Martians
- Like Rock stars
- Like Cheerleaders
- On the edge of a cliff

I find that after doing this exercise, I call back to it often in student improvisations. "Okay, try that again, but this time like you are scared, or angry, or like you're really tired."

MATERIALS:

- a bit of open space is preferred - (front of classroom, library kiva, auditorium - but this activity can be done in class.

EXTENSION:

- For older groups, you can continue this exercise by leading into an improvised two-person scene. Ask two students to take the stage, and assign them each one of the suggestions above. Have them begin with a greeting, then have them continue the scene until you say stop.

