

INTRODUCTION TO & SETTING UP AN IMPROVISATION

GRADES K-6

TH:Cr2.1
TH:Cr3.1
TH:Pr4.1

Lesson by
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This short lesson introduces students to improvisation through familiar storybook characters

DURATION: 10 - 20 min. depending on age

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Initiative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Productivity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social skills

MATERIALS:

- a picture book of a story that is familiar to your students

REFLECTION:

- How did it feel to step into the character's shoes/embody the character?
- Did you try to stick to the story as it is in the book or did you add in your own ideas? Why?
- Did this activity change how you think or feel about these characters?

DIRECTIONS

1. Start reading a picture book of Little Red Riding Hood or another story of your choice. Stop when the wolf meets Little Red (or choose an appropriate moment between two characters in the story) and ask questions:
 - Who are the characters? (wolf and little girl)
 - Where are they? (on a path in the woods)
 - What do they want? (Wolf wants girl to leave the path; girl wants to obey her mother and stay on the path)
 - What do the characters do to get what they want? This question will be answered in the improvisation itself, so ask your students to think about it, but don't solicit answers yet.
2. Close the book and explain that we're going to do some acting. Ask for volunteers to be the wolf and Little Red. Explain that these volunteers are going to pretend to be the characters and say what comes to mind. For this activity, there are no right or wrong answers.
3. After the students improvise the scene, ask the students if the characters got what they wanted and discuss how they went about it.
4. Invite other students up to improvise the same scenario, using their own ideas.

