CHARACTERS HAVE PERSONALITIES

CHARACTER GREETINGS - A PRE-IMPROVISATION EXERCISE

DURATION: 10 minutes

21st CENTURY SKILLS:

- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Information literacy
- Media literacy
- Technology literacy
- Flexibility
- Leadership
- Initiative
- Productivity
- 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.

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.

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, auditorium - but this activity can be done in class.)

EXAMPLES OF WAYS TO GREET EACH OTHER

- 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

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