

CHARACTERS ALWAYS WANT SOMETHING & CHARACTERS ARE IN CONFLICT

This lesson uses short improvised scenes to explore how characters' wants and conflict between characters create interesting stories.

GRADES K-6

TH:Cr2.1

TH:Cr3.1

TH:Pr4.1

Lesson by
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Flexibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Social skills |

MATERIALS:

- whiteboard and marker

REFLECTION:

- Did your characters' wants change during the scene? Why or why not?

DIRECTIONS

1. Explain that characters always want something. Choose two students and tell the class that student A thinks student B stole their lunch.
 - Student A, what do you want? (possible answers: get lunch back, get B in trouble, revenge)
 - Student B, what do you want? (possible answers: to prove innocence or hide guilt depending on whether they did take it, to keep lunch)
2. Talk about what the characters want, and maybe have them suggest their first lines, but don't require the two volunteers to improvise in front of the class.
3. Everyone in pairs improvises their scene with no audience. Choose a pair to perform their scene for the class.
4. Discuss the previous activity:
 - Did the two students want the same thing? (No)
 - If the two characters wanted the exact same thing, would it be an interesting scene? (No) For example, I want to eat lunch with A and she wants to eat lunch with me. Hey, A, want to go get lunch together? Yes? Okay, done.
 - What do we call it when two characters want different things? (Conflict)
5. Brainstorm some ideas of conflict (for each category, write some ideas on the board):
 - How about a parent and a child, what might they be in conflict over?
 - How about a brother and a sister, what might they conflict over?
 - Conflict isn't always between people. How about a conflict with the rules?
 - A conflict with time?
 - A conflict with yourself?
6. Use these ideas to improvise more scenes!

