



Drama Experiences

Key Principles for Good Dramas

1. **Have** _____
Do more than just stand

2. **Include** _____
Make your body language match the character

3. **Use your** _____
Speak slowly and clearly
 - Speak to the back of the room (use a louder tone of voice)
 - Vary the pitch (high/low) and volume of your voice

4. **Express** _____
Make the emotions look and sound "larger than life"

5. **Watch your** _____ **on Stage**
Try to *not* turn your back to the audience





Types of Dramatic Experiences

The following drama methods are especially powerful in the classroom to help children apply lessons to their own personal lives.

Group Sound Effects

Instruct children to make certain sounds or call out certain words during the telling or dramatizing of a story.

Narrated Action

Specific children are assigned roles in the story, they move or act as the teacher or the narrator reads or tells the story.

Repeating the Lines

Teachers assign roles to specific children and they not only move in response to the narration, but they also repeat the spoken lines of their character.

Nonverbal Drama (Pantomime)

Children act out stories only with actions (no spoken words or sounds).

Dramatic Reading (or Reader's Theater)

As a class, students read a Bible story or play. Assign different students to read different character voices. There is no action. It would be like listening to the radio.

Role Playing

Put students in a modern day situation in which a lesson-related problem or issue must be addressed.

Choral Speaking

The entire group/class reads or responds together in answer to a narrator or leader.

Interview

Ask students to imagine being a character from the story. Interview them as if you were a reporter. The students answer interview questions as if they really were the character. Focus on deeper feelings, not just what happened in the story: "How did you feel when...?" "What were you thinking when...?"



Statues or Freeze Frame

Ask children to imagine they are watching the action of the story. Suddenly the story stops, as if someone pushed the PAUSE button. Have students create a scene showing the action and emotions of the characters at that moment but without movement or sound. It will be as if we are looking at statues or a photograph.

Prepared Drama

Older children or adults practice a drama before class to present to their peers or to younger children. Teachers should allow for creativity in the presentation of the characters, including simple costumes and props.

Action Steps

Reflect and respond to the following question:

What is God saying to you about how you can use drama with the children you teach? What will you try this week?