



Lesson: Lets Take a Ride!

Ages: 4th and 5th grade

Supplies needed: Paper and a pen/pencil

Project Intro: This lesson helps children demonstrate the ability to understand what makes characters unique and portray different types of characters on stage.

Materials Reference: Teaching Drama, The Essential Handbook (beatbybeat Press)

Project steps:

Warm-Up Activity:

- **Car Ride**
 - Take four chairs and place them in two rows to represent four seats in a car. Ask 1 participant to sit in the front driver's seat and act as if he/she is driving the car somewhere.
 - The driver then "pulls over" to the side of the road to pick up a new passenger who sits in one of the chairs in the car. Tell the participant playing this new passenger to choose a very strong character trait to act out (i.e. enormous sneezes, extremely old age, annoyed business person, etc.)
 - As soon as this new passenger enters the car, the driver takes on the new passenger's characteristics immediately and to the extreme. They are allowed to talk and engage in conversation while in character.

- They continue dialogue until a new passenger steps into the car. This new passenger also has a very strong character trait and as soon as he/she enters the car, everyone else in the car takes on the new passenger's characteristics immediately and to the extreme.
- Depending on the number of participants, this can continue with current passengers getting dropped off and new passengers getting picked up.

Drama Activity:

- **Bus Stop**

- Write out a list of characters onto separate slips of paper. Here are some suggested characters:
 - Teenager listening to music
 - An antsy 5 year old
 - The President of the United States
 - An escaped prisoner
 - A pickpocket/thief
 - A police officer
 - A businessperson late for an appointment
 - A parent with several very large grocery bags
 - A rock musician
 - A shy 8 year old
 - A news reporter
 - An 80-year old
 - A runaway child
 - A football player after losing a game
 - A computer geek
 - A bratty 7 year old
 - An old person who easily forgets things
 - A tourist
 - A sick person who needs a hospital
 - A pop star
 - A very wealthy aristocrat
 - A nun
 - A 12 year old obsessed with iPhone games
 - A ballerina
 - A crazy old person who keeps muttering to themselves

- A student studying for an exam
 - An alien
 - A clown
 - A farmer
- Take three chairs and arrange them in a row.
 - Ask three participants to draw a different character from the bowl and then sit in the chairs and act as if they have been waiting for the bus for awhile.
 - Tell the participants to put that character into every part of their bodies and convey specific behaviors while in the scene.
 - After they have portrayed their character, they give up waiting for the bus and then leave.
 - After they leave, the other participants try to guess the character each one was playing.

Drama Vocabulary:

Character – a person in a novel, play, or movie

Exaggeration – a statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is.

Gesture – a form of non-verbal communication in which visible bodily actions communicate particular messages, either in place of speech or together and in parallel with spoken words.

Gestures include movement of the hands, face, or other parts of the body.