

FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER

Acting Out A Scene - Activity Guide

Overview

Students will engage with an online musical that introduces them to professional theatre and connects to their language arts curriculum. They will learn about the elements of a scene and then have the chance to act out a scene from the show.

Skills Developed

These activities are designed to advance students' skills in:

- determining the main ideas of a text and interpreting them appropriately
- using intention, emotion, and public speaking skills to portray a character
- adapting their speech to a variety of contexts and tasks
- working with peers to present a short performance.

Materials

Video excerpt from ArtsPower's *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*.

Copies of "From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler - Printable Script Scene" for your students.

Instructions

1. Ask the opening question: What theatrical elements are needed to transform dialogue, or words in a script, into a live performance?
2. Watch the video clip found on the site.
3. Ask your students to describe any observations they have about the way the scene was acted or what the actors did to make you believe they were the characters.

4. Assign students in pairs to play Claudia and Jamie. Boys or girls can read either part. Have them practice the stage directions, in parentheses in the script, to understand how to speak the lines or how to move. Do not read the words in parentheses aloud.
5. Once the students have practiced the scene, each pair may present it to the class. You can choose to add props, costumes, or other elements.

Follow Up

Discuss these questions with your students:

- How did it feel to read from the script?
- Was performing the scene fun? Why or why not?
- Do you better understand the characters in the show after portraying them?
- Would you like to do more scene study and acting work?