

Exploring Dramatic Arts for Intercultural Engagement & Conflict Resolution.

Part 1: -- Exploration of Drama Skills and Tools

Voice - Body Language - Movement -Awareness -Communication Games:

Storytelling: character, time, place, setting, conflict/resolution

Northwest Indian legend Raven, as told by Gerald McDermott dramatized by Adele Berg-Layton
Facilitator: 1) reads the story aloud, shares pictures, then reads the play; 2) assigns parts and guides the group in reading through the prepared script; 3) teaches the elders dance and practices with drum.

Group: 1) Acts out the story, talking through the movement, staging, repeating small sections.
2) Runs through without stopping, if possible; 3) Debriefs on the experience

Reflection on this theatrical experience:

- How does being in the story differ from listening to the story?
- How do you feel, taking on a different character, set of emotions, moving differently?
- What was the main conflict in the story, and how was it resolved?
- Is it helpful to compare story conflicts and resolutions to our own life challenges?
- Does it help us to become more open to different kinds of resolutions to conflict/ dissonance

Part 2: Exploring conflict and resolution through storytelling.

Warm-ups: Games to activate our awareness of our voice, our bodies, our intention with movement and gesture.

Let's consider another cultural folktale Ananzi the spider: a tale from the Ashanti, of West Africa.
Facilitator reads the story aloud, shares the pictures.

Script: Assign parts, practice movement & sounds, talk through blocking & staging.

Work through the play in assigned parts. Do the play with as little stopping as possible.

Reflect on how to heighten the conflicts and resolutions with voice and gesture. Act it out again

Reflection:

- Does this play feel different culturally from Raven?
- How do you experience the difference or the similarities between the two folktales?
- How do these two cultures relate to our American Culture?
- Do you think the conflicts/Resolutions presented in the two plays would be different if the stories were set in a different culture? Raven in Ghana? Anansi in a NorthWest Indian Tribe? Raven in Modern America?,

Part 3:

Warm-ups: Games to activate our awareness of our voice, our bodies, our intention with movement and gesture.

Choice: To be decided with the group, guidance from Adele

1. Revisit, rehearse and refine the plays Anansi and/or Raven

2. Improvisation in Drama- work with a partner- Select a character from a well known folk tale and identify what they want: (Example: Little Red Riding Hood- Big bad wolf- to eat the 3 pigs, Cinderella-to go to the Ball)

Have them encounter Raven or Ananzi and Identify a trickster goal (What happens if Little Miss Muffet meets Ananzi? How will this change the conflict and what is a possible resolution?)
Work with your partner, talk through your story, rehearse, and be ready to share with the group.

Reflection:

1. How does being in the story: portraying a character and interacting with others as this character change your understanding of the story or the conflict?
2. How does this experience of being in the story affect our intercultural understanding?
3. How can we use drama to further our own and others intercultural journeys?