



STG Art Sessions

Character Detectives: Acting from the Inside-Out (Worksheet)

Created by STG Teaching Artist: Mara Palma

This curriculum is tied to an interactive lesson plan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IneAMdqzTnQ&list=PLsWT392033WGtRE6crVRTzX-G7WNdBoSo&index=2>

Activity #1 - CHARACTER PROFILE

Once you have completed a character profile for one of the characters in LA MARIPOSA by Francisco Jimenez, feel free to answer these questions again about any other characters you feel like researching! If you were a theatre Director or Dramaturg, this is exactly what you would do when working on a new show because these roles need to know about ALL the characters in the script.

Name:

Age:

Describe your family:

What is your greatest wish in the world?

What is your greatest fear in the world?

What is your life motto, or slogan?

What is a secret you have?

What does my character say about themselves? Be a script detective here!

What do other characters say about me? Word/phrases are fine here!

What gets in the way of me getting what I want?

Activity #2: CHARACTER BIOGRAPHY WITH PHYSICAL ANCHORS

You will notice that during our session, we focused on the character of Francisco. Therefore, the questions below are more specifically for an actor who would be playing Francisco. You can use these questions as a starting off point for a different character, but you should feel free to rewrite some of these questions with some of the suggestions below.

Prompts:

My favorite food is...

When I put on my new red hat, I thought...

When I was walking about from my house, I felt...

When I was on the school bus, I felt...

On the first day of school, I thought...

I saw the caterpillar and I felt...

My favorite part of the playground is...

When I wore the green jacket I felt...

The moment Curtis pushed me to the ground I felt...

When I saw the butterfly emerge, I thought...

When I won the drawing prize, I felt...

Suggested prompts for additional biographies:

One thing no one could guess about me is...

One thing I wish for someone else is...

One rule I wish everyone in the world followed is...

When I think about school, I first think...

You can also create more questions like this to discover more details about your character!

Bonus Activity - NINE QUESTIONS DEEP

One of my favorite activities is called, “Nine Questions Deep” because as you may guess, we will be answering nine (and possibly more!) questions about our characters! This is something you can do individually or with a partner. First, you will think of 3 questions about your character. You will then answer those questions. Underneath each question, you will ask 3 questions based on the information from your answer! You keep going however many questions deep you’d like. I’ll start you off here. We’ll use Miss Scalapino as an example here.

1. What is your favorite color?
2. What is your favorite hobby?
3. What do you daydream about?

1. What is your favorite color?

- a. Red!
 - i. Why red?
 - ii. What shade of red?
 - iii. What’s your second favorite color?

2. What is your favorite hobby?

- a. I love to have picnics with my best friends.
 - i. Where do you like to have picnics?
 - ii. Who are your best friends?
 - iii. When did you meet your best friends?

3. What do you daydream about?

- a. I daydream about settling into a cozy reading area with a blanket and my favorite tea.
 - i. What is your favorite tea?
 - ii. Why do you like to read?
 - iii. Why do you need a blanket in your cozy reading area?