




Tableau the Story



Overview

This activity will familiarize students with the story of the play so that when they see it they can concentrate on characters and feelings rather than trying to figure out what's going on.

Grade Level	Subject Area	Curriculum Expectations and Learning Outcome			Time Needed	Space	Materials
All	English, Language, Drama	Identify the perspectives evident in the text and comment on any questions they may raise about beliefs, values, and identity.	Select and use appropriate forms to suit specific purposes in drama works.	Extend understanding of a complex text by making connections between the ideas in them and personal knowledge, experience, insights, other texts, and the world around them.	20-30 minutes	Clear, open spaces	Tableaux cards from the play.

SETTING UP THE ACTIVITY

Having students participate in telling the story of the play at the beginning of the unit frees them to focus subsequently on its characters and language. The exercise may be repeated at the end of the unit as a way of recapping the story.

- Tell students they are now going to tell the story of the play.
- Define “tableau” (a frozen picture that tells the story – no moving, no talking).

THE ACTIVITY

- Divide the students into five groups: five to eight students per group.
- Hand out tableau cards, one or two per group.
- Groups work independently for 10 minutes to tableau the scenes on the cards.
- Travel around the room and coach. Remind the students to:
 - Decide where the “front” is
 - Think about levels
 - Choose a “freeze” that they can maintain for a while
- After 10 minutes, call the students back. Have them sit facing the playing area.
- Students present their tableaux in story order. Read the card while the students assume their frozen postures.
- Ask the students to hold their freeze while you discuss it. Ask students in the “audience” to identify the characters who are named in the tableau card. Discuss the relationships between the characters and the action in the scene, and how the tableau shows these things.

OPTIONAL

- Hold up a curtain. Students take their freeze positions behind the curtain while you read the tableau card.
- When the tableau is ready, drop the curtain.

1. **Three Witches** greet **Macbeth** and **Banquo** and tell them their futures.

Macbeth

2. **King Duncan** rewards **Macbeth** for his bravery on the battlefield.

Macbeth

3. **Lady Macbeth** tries to convince her husband, **Macbeth**, to kill **King Duncan**.

Macbeth

4. **Macbeth** kills **King Duncan** as **Lady Macbeth** waits outside the bedroom.

Macbeth

5. **Macduff** and others discover that **King Duncan** has been murdered.

Macbeth

6. **Murderers** hired by Macbeth kill **Banquo**. Banquo's son, **Fleance**, escapes.

Macbeth

7. During a feast, **Banquo's ghost** comes back from the dead and haunts **Macbeth**. **Lady Macbeth** and the rest of the **guests** cannot see the ghost.

Macbeth

8. **Murderers** kill **Macduff's wife** and **children**.

Macbeth

9. **Lady Macbeth** is observed sleepwalking, a sign of her troubled mind.

Macbeth

10. **Macduff** kills **Macbeth** in battle.

Macbeth

11. King Duncan's son **Malcolm** is crowned King of Scotland.

Macbeth