



*A teacher's guide for the examination of the element of plot
(cause and effect) in literature and theatrical drama*

Personification Masks

Drama

Live theatre uses many theatrical elements to create characters and setting to advance storytelling from beginning to end. It is the action and changing scenes that enhance the main story plot and provides life to the tale. What happens in one scene, helps to make the next that more important, and the next, and the next. Information is gathered by the audience as to what has happened, and what will happen.

Note:

The use of personification in tales of fantasy is an example of how creative dramatics of animal characters are used to tell a story and help advance the plot through their actions, dialogue and range of emotions.

National Standards: Fine Arts>Theatre

NA-T.K-4.7 NA-T.5-8-7 Analyzing and explaining personal preferences and constructing meanings from classroom dramatizations and from theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions (Grade 4, 5 & 6)

- Identify and describe the visual, aural, oral, and kinetic elements of classroom dramatizations and dramatic performances.
- Articulate and support the meanings constructed from [one's own] and others' dramatic performances.
- Use articulated criteria to describe, analyze, and constructively evaluate the perceived effectiveness of artistic choices found in dramatic performances.

Kentucky: Arts and Humanities>Drama/Theatre (2.22, 2.26)

Elements of Drama

AH-4-Dr-1, AH-5-Dr-1, AH-6-Dr-1

- Use appropriate terminology to discuss; analyze elements of drama such as plot, character, visuals (e.g., scenery, costumes, props, make-up) and acting (e.g., voice, expression, diction, projection); recognize plot development (e.g., rising action, turning point, falling action) and other dramatic elements (e.g., theme, language, empathy, motivation).

Ohio: Arts>Drama/Theatre Standards

Analyzing and Responding

- Respond to dramatic/theatrical texts, experiences and performances by describing the distinguishing characteristics and interpreting meaning, themes and moods.
- Analyze the creative techniques used in creating and performing dramatic/theatrical works and evaluate dramatic/theatrical works using appropriate criteria.

Benchmark(s)

Grade 4

- A. Use dramatic/theatrical vocabulary and concepts in responding to dramatic/theatrical experiences.
- C. Apply criteria for evaluating a theatrical work.

Grades 5 & 6

- A. Use appropriate dramatic/theatrical vocabulary, elements and principles.
- B. Discuss the collaborative nature of drama/theatre as a vehicle for the expression of ideas.
- C. Articulate opinions about dramatic/theatrical work using established criteria.

Objective

Students will identify the use of personification in dramatic storytelling.

Materials

- Book, James and the Giant Peach, by Ronald Dahl, 1989
- Handout, *James' Insect Friends*
- Paper plates
- Tongue Depressors (sticks)
- Crayons, markers, glitter and glue, and other materials for mask decoration

Vocabulary

- Personification

Activity

Teacher will:

- Introduce the concept for the term, "personification."
 - giving human attributes to a non-human thing or idea
 - giving human qualities to animals or objects
- Facilitate student discussion on the use of personification in storytelling.
- Have student cite examples of their personal discovery or memory of use of personification in books/literature, film, or plays.
- Read aloud to the class the book, James and the Giant Peach.
- Facilitate student discussion on the use of personification in the story. *Have students cite specific examples from the text.*
- Distribute to students the Handout, *James' Insect Friends*, a list of the book's animal/insect characters.
- Have students note the human traits given to each character.
- Have students create and decorate character masks using paper plates and tongue depressors (sticks), crayons, markers, etc.

Students will:

- Create and design a mask to represent an animal/insect character from the book, James and the Giant Peach. *Students will record the human traits for their character on the back of their paper plate mask for reference.*
- Recreate and perform the story using the masks and emphasizing the human characteristics of their chosen animal/insect character.



James' Insect Friends

Insect Friend	Human Characteristics
Old-Green Grasshopper	
Silkworm	
Centipede	
Spider	
Ladybird	
Earthworm	
Glowworm	