



LESSON: Acting Out Verbs, a Variation on Charades

Grades: 1-3

Subject Areas: Language Arts, Drama

Estimated Time: 45 minutes

I. Summary: WordGirl is constantly on the go, discovering and solving problems. Her extensive vocabulary includes many verbs, because WordGirl knows that verbs are an active, image-based part of speech. This lesson focuses on verbs through a variation on the game "Charades." Students will learn new vocabulary (verbs) by silently acting out the meaning of the words.

II. Objectives:

- Students will become familiar with new verbs
- Students will participate in group discussions
- Students will creatively respond to new vocabulary
- Students will dramatize what has been learned
- Students will cooperatively practice problem-solving

III. Materials:

- Print out copies of new verbs and their definitions
- Print out check-list of new verbs
- On slips of paper, write down the verbs
- A container for the slips of paper
- Board and marker for scorekeeping
- Timer

IV. Procedure:

1. On the board, write the word "verb." Invite students to discuss what a verb is and give examples of verbs. Ask students to explain why verbs are important. Remind them that verbs often create a mental picture or image.

2. Distribute the copies of new verbs and their definitions. Briefly review the following verbs, using contextual sentences as models.

Distract
Demolish
Struggle



Freeze
Capture
Scowl
Offend
Battle
Transform
Ignore

3. Explain that these verbs are used in the dialogue on WordGirl, and will now be used in a game of "Charades." Students will be divided into two teams. Each team will pick out two slips of paper from the bowl. After this, each team will divide into two smaller groups. Each group will work with one slip of paper, and decide how to act out the verb; including how many students will participate in the charade.

Explain some physical clues that may be used in the game:

- "sounds like" – cup hand around ear
- "short word" – bring thumb and index finger close together
- "long word" – stretch arms wide

Students will be given five minutes to figure out their strategy. When the time is up, students from one group will perform their charade for the other group on their team. The challenge is to match meanings with actions. If their teammates figure out the correct word, that team wins a point. If their team cannot figure out the word, the opposing team will be allowed to guess.

4. Distribute the verb check-off list. Explain that every time a word is correctly identified, students should check it off their lists.

5. Teams will take turns competing until all the verbs have been acted out and a winner has been established.

V. Assessment: Students should actively participate in Verb Charades and successfully demonstrate comprehension of new vocabulary. Students should participate in practicing new language through acting and observation. Students should work together cooperatively to make decisions.

VI. Extensions in Learning:

- Continue with the framework of "Charades," but this time, students use their acting skills to pantomime the characters from WordGirl. Students have the choice of either acting out the meaning of the characters' names or simply acting out the character itself. Before playing, make sure the class has a list of WordGirl characters.



- Invite students to use their acting skills to pantomime titles of books in the classroom. Before playing, students need to search for, write down, and create a class list of these titles so everyone is working from the same page.
- Working in pairs, invite students to create skits that incorporate pantomime. For example, one of the students role-plays being a foreigner who does not know English. There is a fire in the building and the other student must non-verbally communicate that.

Related National Standards (These are established by McREL at URL: <http://www.mcrel.org/standards-benchmarks/>.)

- Language Arts
- Working with Others
- Observational