

# Drama in the English classroom

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When Drama is mentioned such words as "the stage", "acting" and "plays" come to mind for many people. For many the situations or series of events which have vivid, emotional, conflicting, or striking interest or results and which happen daily in lives for .e.g. the drama of a murder trial or the final dramatic minutes of the match are not really associated with "drama". Life doesn't require a stage for drama to happen and neither does the classroom. For life it-self is the stage. As Shakespeare put it "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: They have their exits and entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts..."(As You Like It, II, vii, 139). Shakespeare realized the importance of drama and so among many others did Oscar Wilde, "Give any man a mask and he will tell you the truth". This latter comment is particularly apt for why we should use drama as a means of getting students to express themselves in English. Give a student a character part or an alter ego [Wilde's mask] and they lose their inhibitions. Students will speak [tell you the truth]. Thus, drama provides the context for meaningful exchange in which participants see a reason to communicate, and focuses on "how to do things" rather than merely on "how to describe things". So while I will give a cursory glance at the "Why drama in the classroom?" the main focus of this presentation is "How to use drama in the classroom?" or rather how to make English more vivid, emotional, interesting and striking.

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