

## English on the move: multimodal activities for language learners

ALICE SAVAGE  
Publishers Exhibition  
Thessaloniki & Athens  
26 August – 3 September



## Language learning in the digital age

*What the computer cannot do is replicate that intricate meshing of language, gesture, gaze and laughter that is inseparable from the experience of learning itself.*

-Scott Thornbury, 2020

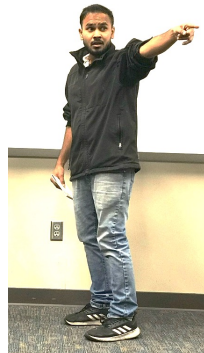
## Gesture and memory

*People remember by doing and watching.*

Boers (2005)

*Gestures help regulate the cognitive processes that underpin communication*

Thornbury (2013)

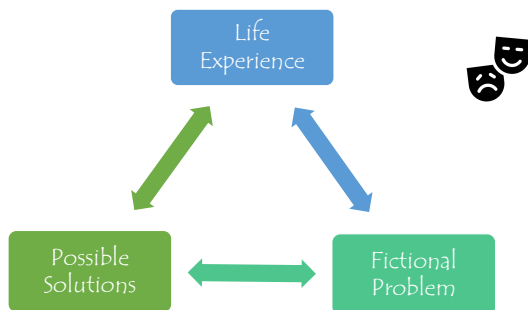


## Drama Strategies can be structured around. . .

❖ roleplays  
❖ storytelling  
❖ improvisation

➤ geography  
➤ history  
➤ literature  
➤ science

*Learning through Drama in the Primary Years, 2011 David Farmer*



David Farmer, 2011

## You are in primary school

*What do you like about school?*

- ❖ What comes easily?
- ❖ What is harder?



## Warmups

### Stand in a circle.

- ❖ (You) come to the middle, say your name, do an action.
- ❖ Go back.
- ❖ Others come forward, say the name perform the action.
- ❖ Next person takes a turn.

### Stand in a line.

- ❖ Alphabetical order
- ❖ tallest to shortest

### Put your . . .

- ❖ put your left hand forward
- ❖ right hand forward
- ❖ left foot forward
- ❖ left foot back.

### Other Verbs

bend, straighten, shake, wave, throw, catch, lift, carry, set down.

### Now you are . . .

- ❖ a raisin
- ❖ a grape
- ❖ two bunches of grapes

## Tongue Twisters

purple peanut  
butter

sticky  
strawberries

gooshy, green  
grapes

### Say it like you . . .

- ❖ love it
- ❖ hate it
- ❖ fear it
- ❖ wonder about it

- ❖ Three groups/call and response
- ❖ pairs

*Learning through Drama in the Primary Years, 2011 D. Farmer*

## Word Orchestra

- Peter Peter Pumpkin Eater  
-----
- had a wife and couldn't keep her  
-----
- so he put her in pumpkin shell  
-----
- and there he kept her very well.

- Put text on numbered strips.
- Distribute strips.
- Stand in order and practice your line.
- Walk around the room.
- Freeze!
- Call out your line in order.



Richard Silberg, unpublished

## Movement

### Walk across the circle . . .

- ❖ gracefully
- ❖ slowly
- ❖ angrily
- ❖ happily
- ❖ fearfully



## The Adverb Game

### I. Brainstorm adverbs

- ❖ gracefully
- ❖ slowly
- ❖ angrily
- ❖ happily
- ❖ fearfully

### III. Student A leaves the room.

Class chooses an adverb.

II Act out adverbs together  
Cross the circle  
*fearfully*



### IV. A returns and gives a direction

- ❖ Drive a car
- ❖ Pet a dog
- ❖ Cross the street
- ❖ Wade across a river

### V. Class performs the action in the manner of the adverb.

A guesses the adverb

## Storytelling

Why were you late to class?



### 1. Braintorm adventure verbs

chased, fell, lost, burned, climbed, stole, broke, escaped, found, rescued, swam, slipped, tripped, crashed, landed, kicked.

### 2. Form groups: Use the verbs to make up a story.

### 3. Choose a narrator and roles for a performance.

## Act out a Fairy Tale or Fable

Reading Skills

### Tell the story

What are the parts?

- ❖ Beginning
- ❖ Middle
- ❖ End

What is the problem?  
What is the solution?

### Elicit

- ❖ Setting
- ❖ Characters
- ❖ Plot

### Groups

- ❖ Choose characters
- ❖ rehearse
- ❖ perform

### Hot Seat

- Have a character sit in the front, e.g., the wolf in Little Red Riding Hood, The Giant in Jack and the Beanstalk.
- Class asks the character questions.
  - Bring up new characters and repeat



## Improvisation: Forum Theatre

Actors  
improvise a  
scene



Audience  
member says  
"freeze."



Audience  
member takes  
over a role.

### SCENES

- A princess at \_\_\_\_\_ needs help sneaking back into the castle.
- A dog wants the bag of treats on a high shelf, and the only one who can help is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- A seedling is trying to convince the \_\_\_\_\_ not to eat it.

Yes, and . . .

David Farmer, 2011

## Roleplay: First Contact

### Earthlings

You are in your ship.  
You see a planet



### Starlings

You are having a picnic in the park.  
You look up and see something in the sky.



### Alternate groups

1. Scene 1: Create a tableau
2. Tap individuals ask them what they see, how they feel, and what they expect.
3. Land the ship. role play and discuss.

Another group can do one with the Starlings landing on earth.

You are in middle school

What do you like about school?

- ❖ What is important?
- ❖ What comes easily?
- ❖ What is harder?



## Consonant clusters plus

Steve and Beth were the best dressed guests.

Best dressed?

Yep, best dressed.



A: Express certainty

B: Express disbelief or agreement.

Those pants are splendid!  
Splendid?  
Yep, splendid!

My closet is clean!  
Clean?  
Yep, Clean!

## What's my Lifestyle

Adverbs of frequency

How often do you ...

- eat breakfast?
- stay awake all night
- go to a restaurant?
- sit in the back seat of a car?

Always



Often



Sometimes



Rarely



Never



60 Kinesthetic Grammar Activities, Alice Savage & Colin Ward, 2020

## Saturday Chores

Present progressive



She's cooking.

He's fixing the car.

- Volunteers mime a chore
- Other students guess the action.

## Saturday Chores

gerunds



How do you feel about . . .

- cooking
- washing clothes
- taking the baby for a walk.

- enjoy
- look forward to
- hate
- put off
- avoid

... makes me ...

## Three-Headed-Monster

Conjunctions

My sister is a good cook . . .

BUT

She makes a mess.



- Three people volunteer.
- Each person says a part of the sentence.
- Switch out with other students.

Alice Savage & Colin Ward, 2020

## Fortune Telling

Future modals

Someone close to you will ask for help.

Someone cares about you more than you realize!

Prepare for unexpected travel.

You are going to discover a hidden talent.

You will stop worrying about something.

MINGLER

- Each student delivers a fortune.
- Pairs discuss the possibilities.
- Pairs exchange slips and move on.

Alice Savage & Colin Ward, 2020

## You are a grown up

What is important to you now?

- What do you want to be good at?
- What makes you nervous?



## The language of conversation

What's the matter?

Do you mind?

It's not my fault!

There you are!

Help yourself.

Formulaic language makes up between one third to one half of all discourse.

-- Norbert Schmitt (2012)

## Interactions are dramatic

Dad, we need to talk.

Uh oh!

Oh yeah?

**Language Play**  
*The patterning of linguistic form, the creation of alternative realities, and the social use of both of these for intimacy and conflict.*  
 -Guy Cook (2000)

## Haemon to King Creon

Some things are never said for fear of the consequences.

## Pragmatics

*Pragmatic ability means being able to go beyond the literal meaning of what is said in order to interpret the intended meanings, assumptions, purposes or goals.*

— Ishihara & Cohen (2010)



## Pronunciation and Pragmatics

RASHID: Really? Do you *want* to spend time with me? Really?  
 OLIVIA: Really.  
 RASHID: Really really?  
 OLIVIA: Yes, really really! I was telling my friend, Kaiko. I need a little excitement in my life.  
 RASHID: I can make that happen.  
 OLIVIA: Really.  
 RASHID: You just wait and see.

28

## Readers Theater

### Actors ...

- choose a script and assign roles
- identify and work with vocabulary/ fixed expressions
- discuss motivation and pragmatics
- work on pronunciation points
- perform with script in hand



A: You busy?  
 B: I'm always busy.  
 A: I can come back later.  
 B: No, it's okay. What's up?  
 A: Right. I heard you might have a new position.  
 B: You did? Who told you?  
 A: I just heard some people talking.  
 B: People talk too much.  
 A: So there is one, isn't there?  
 B: I can't say.  
 A: I understand. You have to keep it a secret.  
 B: Anyway ... I'd better get back to work.  
 A: I promise I won't tell anyone.  
 B: There's nothing to tell.  
 A: Sure, I gotcha. Well, thanks for the information.  
 B: But I didn't give you any.  
 A: Of course you didn't! Trust me! This stays between us.  
 B: Okay ...

## Pragmatics

- > differing objectives
- > implicit communication
- > relationship management

## World Premieres

- tell stories
- identify the conflict
- create characters
- develop a scene
- share



A drama workshop at 18:00

## Thank you

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Questions?



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