


Drama belongs in the classroom


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Red Ball

A holds up an imaginary ball.
A: This is my red ball. Would you like a red ball?
B: Yes, I'd like a red ball.
A: Here catch!
B: Thank you for the red ball.
B to C: Would you like a sticky ball?
C: Yes, I'd like a sticky ball.
B: Here catch!
Continue until everyone has had a turn.



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Language Learning 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)

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Drama and Conversations

- ❖ relationships
- ❖ objectives
- ❖ tactics/strategies
- ❖ expectations
- ❖ outcomes



Pragmatics: The art of achieving conversational objectives.

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The Confession

C: Ummm...

D: What's wrong?

C: Well, I need to tell you something, and I want you to promise not to get mad.

D: Uh-oh. What did you do?

C: Do you promise?

D: How can I promise when I don't know what it is. Just tell me.

C: Uh, it's about your car.

D: Oh no! What did you do to my car?

C: Well, I sort of hit a gate.

(D exhales)

C: It wasn't my fault.

D: I'm sure it wasn't.

C: Don't be mad.

D: I'm not mad!

C: Yes you are.

D: I'm not mad. I'm just sad.

C: I'm sad too. My foot just slipped off the brake.

D: I see.

C: I'm sorry.

D: I know. It's okay.

Discuss

- Who are the people?
- What is their relationship?
- What do they want?
- Who wins? How?

The Drama Book, Alice Savage, Alphabet Publishing Books

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Drama in the classroom

With scripts

- Monologues
- Readers theater

Without scripts

- Improv games
- roleplays



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Non-verbal communication

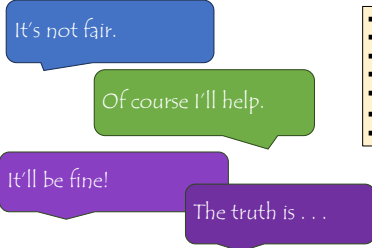
Say it as if you are . . .

- happy
- worried
- skeptical
- disgusted
- confident



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Rehearsal as a pronunciation drill



- thought groups
- focus words
- reductions and linking
- stress emphasis
- intonation
- vowel sounds
- consonant clusters

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Themed Monologues

CHAIN MIGRATION

A college student is coming to live with U.S. relatives.

- ROLES**
- child
 - father
 - mother
 - student from overseas



- Discussion
- Rehearsal
- Performance

The Drama Book, Alice Savage Alphabet Publishing

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So get this! My cousin is coming to live with us. And guess what? I have to give him my room. My room! That's what my dad says, and my mom agrees. She says he's older than me, and it would be nice gesture if he could have his own space. That means I have to sleep in Jack's room. It's not fair!

My brother's son just got a student visa. He wants to study at the university here. I said I'd help. Of course I'll help. He's my nephew, and this is a good opportunity for him. I have to help. I just hope the rest of the family is board. He needs this chance.

So my husband's nephew is coming next week. It's going to be a little crowded, but it'll be fine. At least I hope so. My husband is so nice he couldn't say no. The only thing that worries me is that he's got a big family. There are sisters and brothers, too. The truth is we're going to need a bigger house!

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Literary Sources

What does Antigone choose?



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The Greeks

ORIGINAL: I intend to bury my brother. And if I die in the attempt, I shall die in the knowledge that I have acted justly. Our lives are short. We have too little time to waste it on men and the laws they make. The approval of the dead is everlasting. And I shall bask in it as I lie among them.

Antigone, Sophocles, Don Taylor. The National Theatre, 2012.

ADAPTED: I'm going to bury my brother, and here's why. The laws of God are more important than the laws of men. Life is short and death is long, and I will be happy to die because the dead will welcome me.

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Macbeth

Double, double toil and trouble;
Fire burn and caldron bubble.
Fillet of a fenny snake,
In the caldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt and toe of frog,
Wool of bat and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and howlet's wing,
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.



Song of the Witches, William Shakespeare

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Readers Theater



Actors . . .

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

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One-act play

JAIMIE Gigi's mad. She says you're addicted to computer games.
OSCAR I'm not addicted. I'm passionate.
JAIMIE Gigi thinks you're addicted.
OSCAR (*Begins to pace*) The problem is that I'm in the middle of a tournament. I can't just quit!
JAIMIE Well, Gigi says you're in a big black hole.
OSCAR A big black hole?
JAIMIE I shouldn't have told you.
OSCAR That's not fair!
JAIMIE She says you go into a dark room and play all alone.
OSCAR But I'm not alone! I've got a whole team! I've got fans! I'm on Twitch! I've got sponsors!
JAIMIE I know, but I'm not the one you have to convince.

DISCUSSION

1. What are the points of view?
2. Reading on esports
3. Is a computer game a sport?



Only the Best Intentions, Alice Savage, Alphabet Publishing

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Word stress

A: COMMENT	
She's harmless.	HARMless
It's pointless!	POINTless
It's complicated.	COMplicated
You're perfect!	PERfect
I was just wondering.	WONdering
He's creepy.	CREEpy
That's crazy	CRAzy

B: RESPONSE

IN AGREEMENT

- > I know!
- > Uh huh!

DOUBTFUL

- > Are you sure?
- > I don't know . . .



Introducing Rob, Alice Savage, Alphabet Publishing

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Sources for RT

- Children's books
- Poetry adult/children's
- Authentic scripts
- ESOL scripts
- Novels with scripts
- Adapted versions
- World premieres

FREE SCRIPTS
Aaron Shepard's Readers
Theater Website

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World Premieres

GROUPS

1. Discuss an issue / tell stories
 - people can change
 - parents always know best
2. Choose a story and develop three scenes
 - set the scene and introduce the conflict
 - characters work to achieve goals/resolve conflict
 - conflict is resolved
3. Rehearse and perform

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Improv

(Drama Games)

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Kinesthetic Grammar

Walk across the circle . . .

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



60 Kinesthetic Grammar Activities, A. Savage & C. Ward, Alphabet Publishing

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Gesture and memory

Gestures reduce cognitive load on working memory.

Thornbury (2013)

People remember by doing and watching.

Boers (2005)



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Fishbowl



Topic: Five years have passed, and you and your classmate bump into each other.

- Two students sit in the front and begin a conversation.
- When the audience calls out, "Go Fish," the speaker takes a slip from the bowl, and works it into the conversation.

Maybe I don't know You're kidding! That's funny Why?
 It depends What's the matter? Sure! I don't mind Who?

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Dialog Drama



- Volunteer has to make an important decision.
- Students take on roles as friends and family members.
- Volunteer calls them up one by one to ask for advice.
- Volunteer makes a decision.

1. Should I go on vacation or buy a car?
2. Should I marry my sweetheart against my parents' wishes?
3. Should I study biology or psychology?

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Roleplay

- APOLOGY Sequence
1. I'm sorry.
 2. It's my fault
 3. I was busy.
 4. I'll make it up to you
 5. It'll never happen again



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Asking for a Favor

A: You missed the bus, and you need a ride.

B: You are busy, and you are afraid A is going to want something.



Remember: Agreeing is easy, disagreeing is harder.

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Scaffolded improv: The Bonus

Let's go to the beach!

Let's get an elephant!

That's a great idea honey, but . . .

Improv option

1. Prepare in groups.
2. Line up and perform.
3. Tag to replace

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Drama 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



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RESOURCES

- Englishendeavors.org
- Savagea1775@gmail.com
- <https://alphabetpublishingbooks.com>
- <https://gemmamedia.org/>
- <http://www.aaronshep.com/rt/RTE.html>

Alan Maley and Alan Duff, *Drama Techniques: A Resource Book of Communication Activities for Language Teachers*, Cambridge University Press

David Farmer, *101 Drama Games**



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