

Make the Story Your Own

Use these scenes from familiar stories to brainstorm effective use of voice, gestures, and facial expressions.

- To add voice, consider going high or low, fast or slow, loud or soft.
- Gestures can be used to replace, enhance, or define a word. Remember to use them sparingly for greatest effect.
- Stand in front of a mirror and tell your story. Do your facial expressions match the mood or emotion you are trying to communicate? Sometimes the right expression can speak louder than any words!

Story Title: The Three Little Pigs

Scene:

1. No sooner had the little pig moved into his house of straw than along came the hungry wolf.
2. "Little pig, little pig, let me come in," he said.
3. "No, by the hair of my chinny, chin, chin," said the first little pig. "I will not let you in."

Story Title: Rumpelstiltskin

Scene:

1. The King was delighted to see all the glittering treasure, but still he was not satisfied.
2. He took the miller's daughter into a still larger room filled with straw.
3. The King said, "If all of this is spun into gold before morning, you shall be my Queen."

Story Title: The Emperor's New Clothes

Scene:

1. The minister took off his glasses and cleaned them.
2. But it did no good; he didn't see a single thread.
3. He didn't want to lose his high position so he made believe he could see the material very well, and he admired it.

Story Title: The Golden Goose

Scene:

1. The third sister did not see why she should keep away.
2. She thought, "The others are getting their share. Why shouldn't I?"
3. She started to push her two older sisters aside, and at once she stuck hard and fast.

Story Title: Hansel and Gretel

Scene:

1. Then Gretel shook her apron.
2. The pearls and precious stones rolled on the floor.
3. Hansel drew one handful of gems after the other out of his pocket.

Story Title: The Princess and the Pea

Scene:

1. In the morning the Queen asked the Princess, "Did you rest well, dear?"
2. "Oh terrible, simply awful!" the Princess answered. "I don't think I closed my eyes all night."
3. "I don't know what might have been in my bed, but I lay upon something hard, so that my whole body is black and blue. What a miserable night!"

Make the Story Your Own (continued)

Story Title: Juan Bobo and the Pot That Would Not Walk

Scene:

1. As Juan looked at the pot, he thought, “That pot has three legs!”
2. “I have only two legs.”
3. “Why should I break my back carrying that pot?”

Story Title: No Doubt About It

Scene:

1. Some of the townspeople were very interested.
2. They watched as he said, “Oh, wise parrot, if I dig here, will I find any gold?”
3. “Brrrrk! No doubt about it!” was the parrot’s reply.

Story Title: Jack Gets a Job

Scene:

1. The next day Jack helped the farmer’s wife churn butter.
2. At the end of the day Jack was given two slabs of butter.
3. He put the butter in his pockets and started home.

Story Title: Jack Gets a Job (2)

Scene:

1. “Oh Jack,” wailed his mother.
2. “You weren’t thinking.”
3. “You should have wrapped the butter in wet leaves so it wouldn’t melt and carried it carefully in your hands.”

Story Title: Jack Gets a Job (3)

Scene:

1. The next day Jack worked for the baker, making cakes and breads and pies.
2. He was rewarded not with a cake or bread or a pie – but with a cat. A great big black cat.
3. The cat screeched and scratched as Jack wrapped it in wet leaves and began to carry it home.

Story Title: Seven Foolish Fishermen

Scene:

1. He called to his other brothers, “I’ve found him!”
2. “He’s fallen in the well, but he seems to be fine.”
3. “Don’t be scared,” he called to his brother down in the well.