

Some considerations for using drama in the learning and teaching of English

We need to consider the play in terms of its content, length, dramatic elements and practicability. Usually a three-scene play, like 'Bossy Chris', is ample for 6-8 lessons. The first few lessons could be used by the teacher to introduce the situational context, characters, key movements, key dialogues and language focus. Then, pupils could be guided to write part of the play and rehearse their parts step by step. In the last two lessons, there will be the actual performance by the groups and the feedback from the teacher and peers.

We need not ask pupils to perform the whole play. In fact, we encourage pupils to make choices and decisions in their learning. The whole class could be divided into different groups and each group could choose to act out their favourite scene. Pupils could also be asked to assist with the props (e.g. finding the chocolates and pens in 'Bossy Chris') or sound effects (e.g. giving suggestions on how to make the sound of the goats walking on the bridge in 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'). This gives pupils ownership of their learning.