

Synthesizing

Activity: Creating a Play

Purpose: To use drama to help students synthesize their understanding of text.

1. Read a story aloud to the class.
2. Discuss how the story could be acted out. Suggested prompts:
 - What is the essence (general idea) of the story?
 - How would you re-create ...?
 - How else could you...?
 - How could you create a modern version, historical version, science fiction version of the story?
 - How do you think (character's name) would act? Why?
3. Tell students that they will be acting out the story.
4. Give students ample time to discuss, plan, and practice their interpretations of the text in small groups.
5. Encourage students to use props to re-create their understanding of the story.
6. Students perform their interpretations for their classmates.
7. Have students discuss how their understanding of the text has changed, if at all. Suggested prompts:
 - What made you choose that part to put in your play / use that costume / have that character act like...?
 - Why were another group's (characters / props / script) different from yours?
 - How does your prior knowledge influence the decisions you make for your play?
 - Did your view of the story change after making the play or seeing the other plays?

