

## Group Tableaux for History

### Drama Exercise: Group Tableaux

**Adaptation to Curriculum: To teach the Egyptian Civilisation, History**

**Grade: 4**

**Teacher: Manvinder Bajaj**

**School: Nahar International School, Mumbai**

### The original drama exercise

Everyone is given a well-known story such as Cinderella. Then the class is put into groups. First, each group is asked to make what they think is the last scene or where the story would end in freeze frame. Once they have created their freeze frames get the groups to look at each other's work and start to improve on the following for all the groups:

- Levels
- Points of focus
- Depth
- Body sizes
- Facial expressions



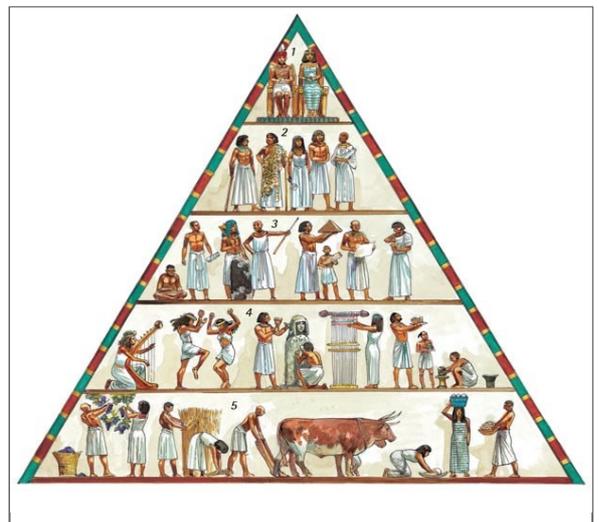
Then tell each group that they need to choose the 5 most important moments of the story. They are to make a tableau for each of the five moments. They can use the same ending as their last scene. They should rehearse their tableaux and be able to transition between them quickly and smoothly. Tell them they will have exactly 5 seconds to complete their transition between tableaux. You will be counting. Then when the groups show their tableaux to each other have the audience close their eyes during the transitions. After each group, ask if the story was clear or not. Compare the 5 moments each group has chosen.

**Purpose of the exercise:** An easy tool for storytelling. Bringing stories to life. Allowing participants to identify with characters and situations by taking poses. Understanding story structure of beginning, middle, and end.

### The adaptation to education:

Manvinder came into class and drew a pyramid on the board. The learners were then asked to come up and pick up chits which told them who they were for eg, a scribe, doctor, slave soldier.

The person who had got the Pharaoh chit had to come and sit on a chair which was placed in front of the class.



The other learners then had to position themselves accordingly so that they created a tableau of the different social classes. They were asked to take a freeze to suggest who were they were. Manvinder then went about tapping learners and they had to come alive. Other learners were allowed to ask them questions.

After this had been done with some learners they were asked to sit down and Manvinder moved towards the Pharaoh's chamber and asked them to do come alive. Each character was asked to say something to the Pharaoh which would reveal their identity. When they finished, learners were all asked to sit down. There was a discussion which looked at the social systems in the present day comparing it to things they knew about the Egyptians.

Learners contributed well to the discussion and Manvinder helped them to understand things better with her information. Answers given were written on the board on the pyramid so that learners got a clearer picture.