

TEACHING TABLEAU

Based on the work of Judi Garratt

1. Using a familiar story, such as “The Three Little Pigs,” ask a volunteer to become the door of the house. Ask three more to go inside the house and look scared. Ask one more to be outside the house trying to get in. All players freeze with exaggerated expressions.
2. Ask the audience members to close their eyes. Move the players so that the door is broken, the wolf is inside the house, and the pigs are hiding behind one another.
3. Ask the audience members to open their eyes and tell what happened in the story.
4. Players go back to position one, audience closes eyes. This time the door becomes stronger, the pigs are happy, and the wolf is gone. Audience opens eyes and tells what happened in the story this time.
5. Then select a setting (desert or forest work well) and build it as a tableau. One player enters the acting area and becomes an object (avoid animals and people). The next one to enter may not become the same object as the first and so on.
6. When the setting is established, the remainder of the players make a sound collage to complete the effect.
7. Have players leave the tableau one at a time, telling the audience what object they were portraying.

This technique is an effective storytelling vehicle and provides a way to assimilate student learning quickly.

CRITERIA

- No movement; frozen
- Focus on scene
- Different levels & positions
- Shows clear expression & can be seen by audience