

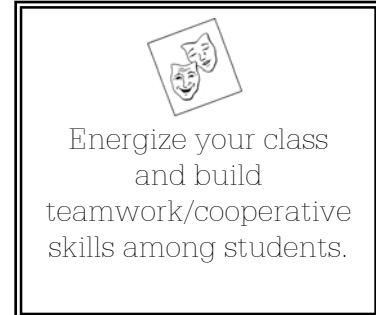
# Teambuilding through Drama

## Lesson Set-Up

**Target Grade Level:** 1<sup>st</sup> & up  
**Length of Lesson:** 45-60 minutes

### Essential Question

What teamwork skills are needed to complete tasks in life?



### Background/Prerequisite Knowledge

- Concentration
- Imagination
- Imitation
- Use of space
- Partner negotiations

### Vocabulary introduced in the lesson

- Details
- Setting
- Collaboration

## Lesson Introduction

1. Introduce the words: teamwork, cooperation, collaboration. Ask the students what they know about these words. Put definitions up on the board:
  - **Teamwork:** Working with others
  - **Collaboration:** Working with others to solve a problem, find solutions, make a decision
  - **Cooperation:** To go along with the solution, the decision, the final plan
2. Demonstrate personal space and random walking?
3. Ask the essential question: What teamwork skills are needed to complete tasks in life?

## Step-by-Step Process

**Step 1:** Have students random walk about the room, maintaining personal space, and stopping on a signal (I use a tambourine).

**Step 2:** After giving the stop signal, give students a count of four to get back-to-back with one other person and create a still statue of \_\_\_\_\_. (I use a prompt connected with their studies.)

**Step 3:** Circulate and comment on images you see, on concentration, use of body, imagination, and teamwork.

**Step 4:** Repeat step one.

**Step 5:** After giving the stop signal, give them a count of four to get back-to-back with two other people (making a group of three). Let them know that they must form a group with new people.

**Step 6:** Ask groups to create a simultaneous, synchronized movement sequence that has the following components:

- goes high to low
- rotates
- uses four different hand movements
- ends on a freeze

Remind students that all team members must be in sync.

**Step 7:** Repeat step one.

**Step 8:** On a count of four, have students get back-to-back with four other people (creating a group of five). Remind them that they must be with new teammates.

**Step 9:** Have the groups create an Impossible Sculpture (see *181 Favorite Level One Ideas for Drama* for more about this activity). The sculpture should include the following body parts touching the ground:

- 4 feet
- 1 back
- 1 head
- 3 hands
- 2 knees
- 2 elbows

**Step 10:** Remaining in these teams, give each group a vocabulary word from recent or upcoming studies. Write each word in a sentence on an index card or scrap of paper to give students a context clue for their vocabulary word. Each team should be given their word in secret and told to keep their word secret from other teams. Then, each group must create a still image (statue) communicating the word. Below is the process they should follow for creating their statue (you might want to write the process on the board):

1. Discuss what they know about the word.
2. Look up the word in a resource.
3. Review the word in context of the sentence given and select the appropriate meaning/definition based on context.
4. Brainstorm ideas for the image/statue they will create. (There are two protocols for this sharing out: everyone gives one idea; no one says “no” to an idea.)
5. Discuss all ideas shared.
6. Choose an idea or combination of ideas.
7. Stand up and create the image.
8. In turn, each group member steps out of the statue to look at the image.
9. After everyone has had an opportunity to observe the statue, share ideas for improving the image.
10. Stand up and create the image with revisions.
11. Share the images with the class. (You might have observing groups make a guess at the word that is being communicated and discuss why they think it is that word. But be mindful that it doesn't become a guessing game.)

*Here is a tip:  
Teach the word “stoic”  
and ask the actors to  
remain stoic as  
members of the class  
discuss their word.*

### **Lead a reflection on the activity**

1. Ask the essential question: What teambuilding skills do you need to accomplish a task in drama, social studies, or any walk of life?
2. What was the hardest thing about working on a team?
3. Raise your hand if you liked working the best with a partner, with a team of three, with a larger team? Why?
4. What are the characteristics you look for in fellow teammate? (Put their ideas up where they review them later and think about them.)