

Lesson 4

This session applies drama techniques to storytelling. It utilises the written work created in the previous three sessions and looks into bringing the stories and characters to life.

Aims: To provide an introduction to imagery
To encourage the development of clear, well structured and economic story telling.

Objectives: Bringing stories to life through tableau work
Creating sections of a graphic novel

Resources: Tricks and Tips sheet
Work from lesson 3

1. Actions Speak Louder (5 minutes)

Typically, characters reveal their true selves through what they do, not what they say. Hypocrisy is a common human trait and one reflected in the Shapeshifter character type. (Lesson 1 section 4). Can you think of examples where fictional characters say one thing but do another?

2. A picture paints a thousand words (30 minutes)

Go through the lists of new plot points, (Lesson 3, section 4)

Select one of the stories to work with

Using group members as actors, create a still image, (like a photograph) which represents each plot point.

Number each picture and make sure the actors remember all of their positions.

Take time to clarify each of the images, make sure they are telling the story

Get rid of any images that don't move the story along.

3. Less is best (20 Minutes)

With TV, Movie or play scripts you don't need hours of dialogue to get a story point across. That said, dialogue is often necessary to clarify certain story elements.

Look over you images once again. Identify the ambiguous points.

Give the characters lines where necessary but them to an absolute minimum.

Run the images again, this time with the lines.

4. Additional activity

- a) Photograph or draw the images
- b) Add speech bubbles to the relevant images containing the minimal dialogue
- c) Create a graphic novel to tell the whole story as efficiently as possible
- d) Share the graphic novel with another group and ask for feedback. They might not even recognise that it was based on an existing work from another author.

© J. Standerline

with the Bluecoat.

