

THEATER SCENARIOS

Participatory drama allows students to play simple characters and use the English language in interaction with others. To be successful, students need to understand what is a character and the roles of the protagonist (the one who wants something), the antagonist (does not want it), and the secondary players.

Participatory drama opens doors for teachers to introduce simple English grammatical structures and vocabulary.

- Divide students in groups of four and distribute the cards. Each card is different. There are four characters: Rosa, Carlos, Ricardo and Ana. Each member of the small group should receive a different card/character.
- Give students time to read the card, ask questions and think about what he or she would do with the character. Encourage them to use English.
- Students can rehearse by themselves before presenting their drama to the rest of the class. Give them time to prepare and present their drama.

Variation: Students can present different endings for their story and ask the audience (the other class members) whether or not the ending seems "real" or "artificial."

The theater form in which this exercise is building was developed by Augusto Boal and adapted for you for this training.

Try and Enjoy!

Rosa's Dilemma

This card describes the character you will play. Other people in your group have different cards with different characters. You should only read your own card.

Instructions: Read your character card and think about Rosa. How will Rosa act? What will Rosa do? What are things that Rosa would not do? What does Rosa want to get out of the situation?

Choose an item to hold or wear that symbolizes you are Rosa.

Rosa's character:

I recently came from Honduras. I want to learn English but my husband wants me to stay home. He says that I must take care of our two children. My children attend school during the day. Ricardo is already 10 years old and Ana is 7. I must speak to my husband, Carlos, at dinner today to explain how important it is for me to learn English.

Rosa is *shy* and reserve. It is hard for her to **confront** someone else. She does not like to fight with her husband. She is a good mother and wants to learn English to help her children with school work.

Shy = Timid (a word that most Spanish speakers can guess).

Confront = Challenge, defy

Rosa's Dilemma

This card describes the character you will play in Rosa's Dilemma. Other people in your group have different cards with different characters. You should only read your own card.

Instructions: Read your character card and think about Carlos. How will Carlos act? What will Carlos do? What are things that Carlos would not do? What does Carlos want to get out of the situation?

Choose an item to hold or wear that symbolizes you are Carlos.

Carlos's character:

I recently came from Honduras with my wife, Rosa, and our children. They are young and I want them to be safe. I hear children change in the United States. Our children are Ricardo, who is 10 years old and Ana, age 7. I am glad to make enough money at the restaurant so that Rosa does not have to work. She is a good mother and likes to stay home with our children.

Carlos is a good worker. He is the man of the house and wants peace and **quiet** at home. He can be loud if **provoke**.

Quiet = Calm, silent

Provoke = Irritate, aggravate

Rosa's Dilemma

This card describes the character you will play in Rosa's Dilemma. Other people in your group have different cards with different characters. You should only read your own card.

Instructions: Read your character card and think about Ricardo. How will Ricardo act? What will Ricardo do? What are things that Ricardo would not do? What does Ricardo want to get out of the situation?

Choose an item to hold or wear that symbolizes you are Ricardo.

Ricardo's' character:

My parents, Rosa and Carlos and my sister Ana, came from Honduras not long ago. My father works at a restaurant and my mother takes care of the house. I like school but want my mother to be able to speak to my teacher. I don't like translating for my mother and teacher. It makes feel bad.

Ricardo is **witty** and likes to go to school. He has many friends at school. He likes living in the US and taking care of his sister.

Witty = humorous, clever

Rosa's Dilemma

This card describes the character you will play in Rosa's Dilemma. Other people in your group have different cards with different characters. You should only read your own card.

Instructions: Read your character card and think about Ana. How will Ana act? What will Ana do? What are things that Ana would not do? What does Ana want to get out of the situation?

Choose an item to hold or wear that symbolizes you are Ana.

Ana's character:

I love leaving in El Paso. Here we have a nice house and my teacher is nice. But I miss my grandmother who used to take care of me in Honduras. I like playing in school and my mother's food. My father is nice too. I am 7 years old, but almost 8. My big brother thinks he knows a lot.

Ana is sweet and likes to play. She also likes the color pink and loves her parents. She tends to get **anxious** if people **raise** her voice. She misses her grandmother who lives in Honduras.

Anxious = nervous, concern

Raise = increase, elevate