

The Green Children

Story Drama - Jonothan Neelands

Beginning Drama 11-14 - London: Fulton (1998)

Can be adapted to Year 5, 6 or 7

1. TELLING THE STORY: TEACHER AS STORYTELLER

In groups **identify 7 or 8 key moments** in the story
put the moments into sequence - **where does the story begin?**

Pick a storyteller: they then tell the story and the others act it out.
(The storyteller will have to include plenty of detail and actions)
Everything in the story will need to be acted out! Weddings, knights, sheep - the lot.

Telling the story.

In groups one person starts telling the story, teacher shouts change and someone else takes over etc to the end.

Repeat this exercise, but telling in role:

- The villager who first found the children
- The green girl, now grown up and a mother, how she was found.
- Sir Richard telling the king and the court.
- The teacher in the school

Questions:

How has the story changed?

What happens when told by different characters

What did you add, leave out?

2. MAKE A TABLEAU.

- Pick an important moment in the story to illustrate.
- Add a caption.
- Look at each others and guess the captions

3. MIMED SCENE & SOUNDTRACK

In a larger group devise a scene of the moment the green children were found.

Scene is to be mimed and about 30 seconds long.

Pair with the other group to provide a soundtrack - every sound has to be reproduced.

Think about the different ways the villagers responded: fear, compassion, curiosity, anger etc.

4. A YEAR ON

Pairs - after a year

- (a) starts by being the green girl and explaining to friend (b) who listens and asks questions etc.
When the teacher says change, (b) becomes the green boy and (a) the friend.
- **Discuss the differences between the girl and boy after a year.**

5. GOSSIP CIRCLE

In a circle students invent/exaggerate and passes on what is being said amongst the villagers... **are the children angels or devils? are they responsible for disasters, crops failing, sick animals etc etc... what should be done with them?**

6. STUDENTS-IN-ROLE - SHORT SCENE

As:

- parents
- carers - doctor, teacher, cook, friends etc
- other children
- farmers and market traders (whose livelihoods may have been affected).

How may your group have reacted to the children: suspicious, caring, angry at the attention they are getting, worried about the boys disease being catching?

Make a short scene showing an incident: first day at school/day the children went to the cattle market etc. After each scene **discuss what happened in role**

7. TEACHER-IN-ROLE AS SIR RICHARD. TOWN MEETING

Returns to the village after a year away, holds a town meeting:

- Can they stay? what if some of the villagers don't want them to?
- Will the girl be allowed to marry when she is old enough?
- Is the boys illness catching?
- What happens if more green people come?

8. STRATEGY GAME

2 students as green children at the end of the space

Others think about their characters and their attitudes to the children.

- If they want to stay and care/protect the children stand in close proximity
- If they care about the children but are not willing to look after them themselves they stand slightly further away.
- If they are suspicious further again
- If they are prepared to get rid of the children then further away again

Teacher asks a sample how far they would go to protect/get rid of the children - pushing for a life or death commitment.

Game: Those prepared to destroy the children walk very slowly toward them, when they meet other characters they stop.

- Fist - more palms than fist they must talk. if more fist than palms, talkers stand aside or die
- Palm brief chance to discuss and then decide again
- Stand aside

If anyone wants to change then they shout stop and explain their move.

9. DISCUSSION:

- **Is it a true story?**
- **If not, what is the real story?**
- **Why does the boy die and the girl survive?**
- **What does this story tell us of what is expected of girls? and what is normal or natural?**

