

 **Tips for using Drama in Online Teaching**

Since we can no longer travel and play our shows, I am going through my workshop notes to find drama activities that I think can work for teaching English online. I am trying to focus on activities that do not rely on groupwork, but which will stiil get students to be creative and feel a need to express themselves.

People often think that they are not creative, but we all are, and activites like these never fail to unlock original ideas in students‘ minds.

**Activity 1 – Using Music to Imagine Film Scenarios.**

1. You need to choose a piece of music to play your students. It should be something that is not famous, something that they will not know. Ideally, it should be evocative of a certain atmosphere.

*Note: There is plenty of non-copyright music on youtube you can use, if you put in ‚Royalty Free music – (e.g.) Horror‘. You can convert the youtube to normal mp3 sound files using a free online converter like e.g. ytmp3*

2. Play the music to your students once. (Make sure they do not see a title of any kind to give them preconceptions – Scary music, etc) Tell them to just listen to it. Fade it out after about a minute.

3. Tell them you are going to play the music again. They should not write anything or take notes, just listen. But this time they should imagine that the music is the soundtrack to a film and they should try to imagine what is happening in that film. Again, fade out after about a minute.

4. Play the music one more time, for longer this time, and tell them that they can now take notes for themselves and describe in a bit of detail what is happening in that film.

5. Now the students have original stories that they are ready to tell and you have to decide what you want to happen next. They could tell eachother their stories in rooms, or write them up for homework, or (my favourite) do a speed writing activity where they have five minutes to write as much as they can. Or ……. you tell me.

I hope this activity is useful. Please write to me at david@thebeartheatre.com or comment on the youtube video if you have any thoughts or questions.