



EduTrend Contents

W4C · PERFORMING ARTS · PRIMARY

Freeze-Frame Stories

Tell a story in three still pictures

Ages 7–10

Level: Foundation

60 minutes

Groups of 4–5 · up to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Freeze-Frame Stories

Pupils warm up with statue games, then learn to make a freeze-frame: a still picture made with bodies. Groups show the beginning, middle and end of a familiar story in three freeze-frames and use thought-tracking to reveal characters' thoughts.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- create a clear freeze-frame using levels and expression;
- sequence three freeze-frames to tell a story;
- use thought-tracking to show a character's feelings;
- give kind, specific feedback to other groups.

KEY WORDS

freeze-frame · tableau · levels · facial expression · body language · thought-tracking · audience

CURRICULUM LINKS

Drama: conventions and storytelling. English: story structure and character. PSHE: empathy and feelings.

1

WARM UP

Body and voice

2

EXPLORE

Play and try

3

CREATE

Devise and shape

4

REHEARSE

Practise and polish

5

PERFORM

Share with an audience

6

REFLECT

Feedback and improve

Materials

- A cleared space or hall
- Story cards with simple, well-known stories or fables
- A tambourine or clap signal for freezing
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Clear the space and agree a freeze signal.
- Prepare story cards with three key moments.
- Plan groups of 4–5.
- Practise a demonstration freeze-frame with volunteers.

SAFETY

Keep movements controlled; no lifting or climbing on each other. Leave space between groups.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Push for different levels: a freeze-frame where everyone stands at the same height is hard to read.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–10 min Warm-up	Play statues: pupils move and freeze as animals, feelings and objects.	<i>"Can your face show the feeling too?"</i>
10–20 min Teach	Build a freeze-frame with volunteers; show levels, focus and expression.	<i>"Where should the audience look first?"</i>
20–40 min Create	Groups create three freeze-frames for the beginning, middle and end of their story.	<i>"How will you move smoothly between frames?"</i>
40–50 min Thought-tracking	When tapped on the shoulder, characters speak one thought aloud.	<i>"What is your character really thinking?"</i>
50–60 min Share	Groups perform; the audience guesses the story and gives feedback.	<i>"Which frame told the most?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Tell a story in three freeze-frames that an audience can understand without words, then add one spoken thought for each character.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The performance craft in brief

A freeze-frame, or tableau, is a still picture made with performers' bodies. It captures one important moment. Levels (high, medium, low), facial expression, body language and where performers look all help the audience understand the moment.

Thought-tracking is a drama convention in which a character in a freeze-frame speaks their private thoughts aloud. Drama teachers use freeze-frames and thought-tracking to explore stories, characters and feelings, because they slow the action down so the audience can look closely.

Common ideas to listen for

- "Freeze-frames are boring because nothing moves." A strong still image can be powerful.
- "Everyone should face the front." Performers can turn to each other but stay open to the audience.
- "Only the main character matters." Every body in the picture adds meaning.

Adapting the activity

Support

Give groups a photo of a freeze-frame to copy before creating their own.

Stretch

Add a slow-motion transition between frames or a narrator linking the scenes.

WORKSHEET 1

Story planner

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Plan your three freeze-frames.

Freeze-frames

Frame	What happens	Who is where
Beginning		
Middle		
End		

WORKSHEET 2

Sketch the frames

Draw stick figures to show levels.

Three frames



Draw three boxes. Show high, medium and low levels.

WORKSHEET 3

Audience feedback

Watch another group.

The story I saw

Best frame and why

One idea to improve

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Creates clear freeze-frames	Uses levels and expression	Gives specific feedback

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Freeze-Frame Stories is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents W4C Performing Arts programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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