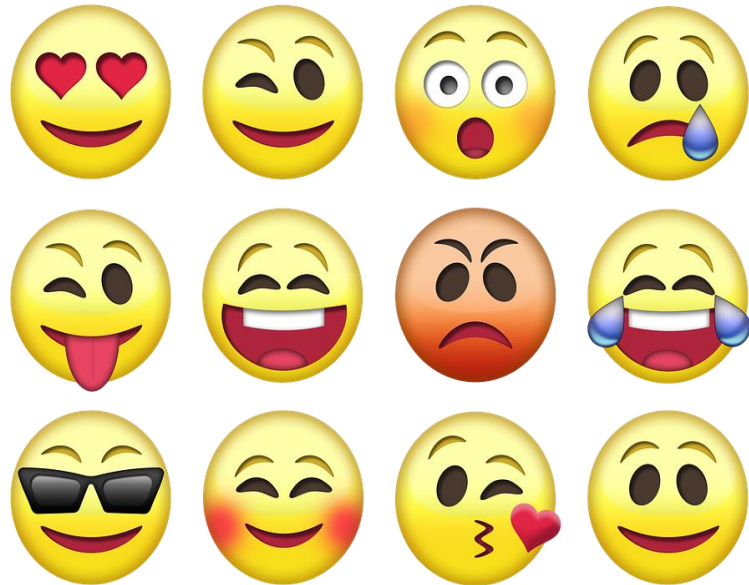




Co-funded by the
AMIF Programme
of the European Union

Integrating migrant children in schools through artistic expression



Module 3: Performing People Theme 3C: Performance

Prepared by Bath Spa University

Theme 3C Focus: Performance

Theme 3C Learning Activities explore how participants can develop their own voice in different environments using simple mask performance techniques. They will develop these in a range of performance contexts using different stimulus material. There will be a focus on:

- ▶ Creation
- ▶ Performance
- ▶ Evaluation

Learning Resources & Materials

Materials:

- ▶ Paper and coloured pens, white card, elastic and string.
- ▶ Fabric, wool, ribbon, colouring & collage materials.
- ▶ Mask-making ideas from **Theme 3B Masks**
- ▶ Tables and chairs
- ▶ Build a props and costume box: fabric, costume, random objects such as envelope, piece of jewellery, watch, photos; items of clothing e.g. scarf, hat, a small box, old glasses, a key etc

Resources:

Additional weblinks provide exemplification and support

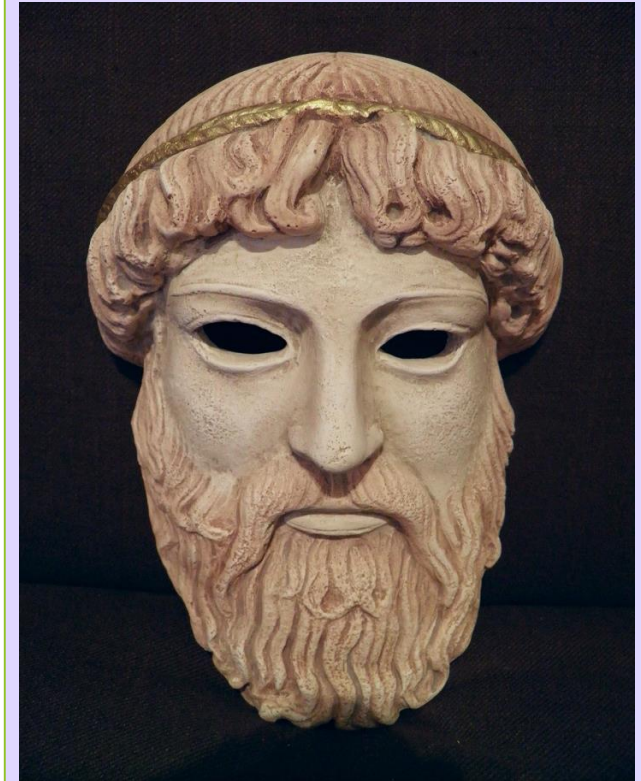
All levels: The rules of performing with masks

Performers have used masks since ancient times - get to know your mask:

- Look at the mask you are wearing.
- Make your facial expression the same as your mask.
- Put your body in the shape of the mask's expression.
- Walk around, moving, and acting like the expression on your mask

Watch: Trestle Theatre Video for advice on putting on a mask

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFXqsU7Ybjs>

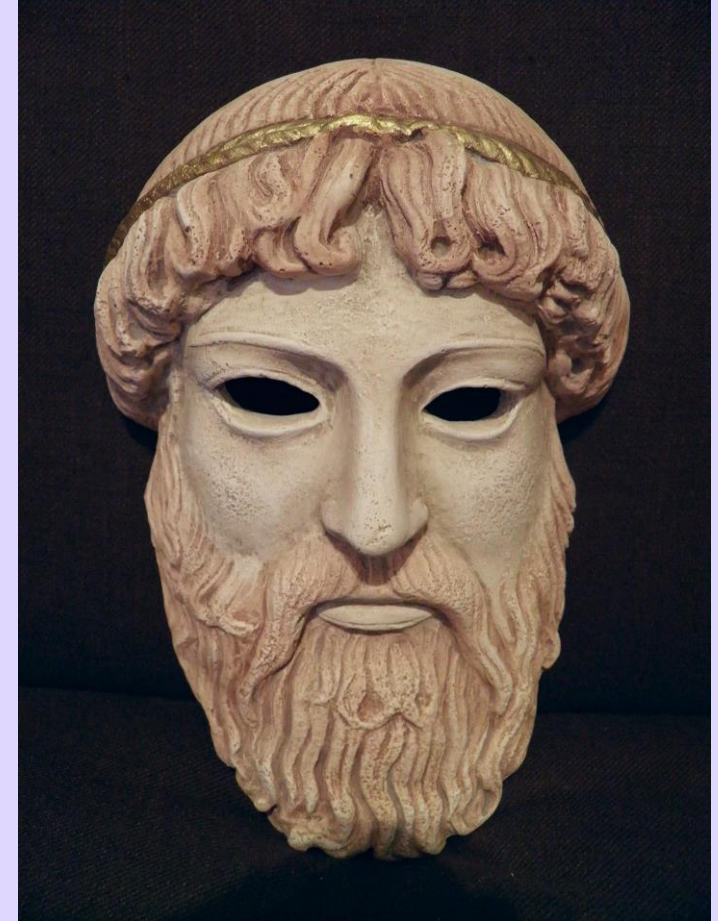


Greek mask: CC-BY-SA-2.0

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_Greek_theatrical_mask_of_Zeus_replica_\(8380375983\).jpg#filelinks](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ancient_Greek_theatrical_mask_of_Zeus_replica_(8380375983).jpg#filelinks)

All levels: The rules of performing with masks

- ▶ Put your mask on off stage whenever possible.
- ▶ Or turn away from the audience when you put the mask on or off.
- ▶ Always face the audience.
- ▶ Do not touch the mask.
- ▶ Never wear on top of your head like a hat.
- ▶ Use your hair or a hat to help create the character.
- ▶ Keep it alive - small movements are significant.



Levels 1 & 2 Learning Activities: Emotions & Emojis

Emojis.
We all love them!

Find one word to
describe these
emotions:



Level 1 & 2 Learning Activities: Emotion Masks

Use the masks you have made, or make some new ones using cardboard cut into circles. Fix with elastic.

Look at Theme **3A Portraits** (particularly slides 5 and 6) & Theme **3B Masks** for ideas on making expressive faces & masks.

Make masks for these emotions:

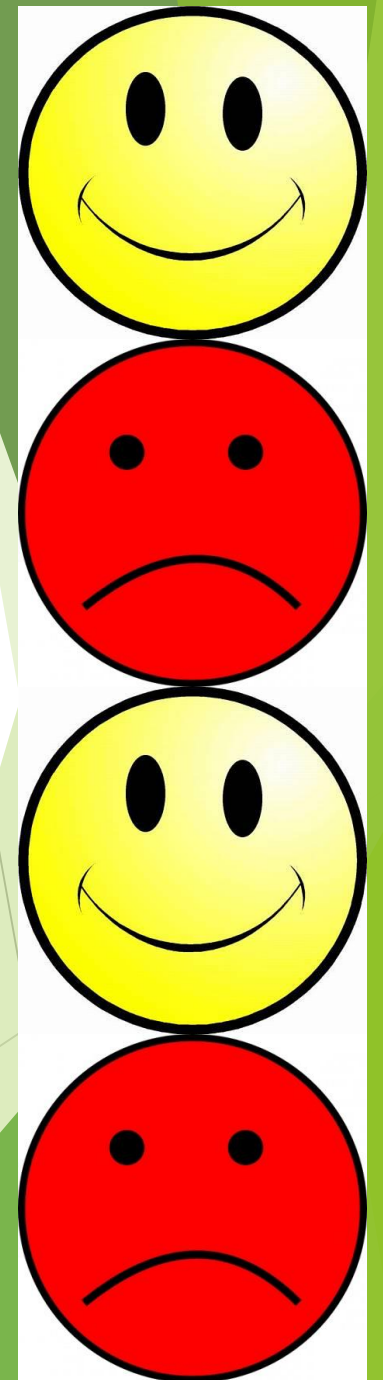
- Happy
- Sad
- Angry
- Bored
- Confused
- Surprised



(Photographs: Geraldine Hill Male)

Level 1 and 2 Learning Activities: Emotion Masks

- ▶ Pose with the emotion of your mask before putting it on.
- ▶ Concentrate on body and facial expression.
- ▶ Can the audience guess what the emotion is?
- ▶ Ask them to help you make it clearer...
- ▶ Look at the emotion in the mask you are wearing.
- ▶ Make your body mirror this emotion.
- ▶ If your mask is sad, make your whole body sad.

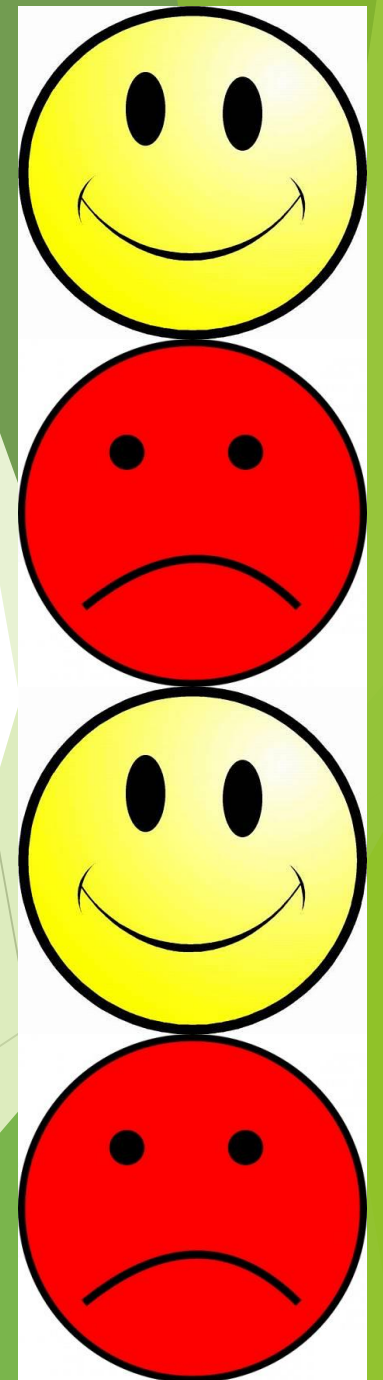


Smiley emoji (CC PD)

<http://clipart-library.com/free-smiley-face-pictures.html>

Level 1 & 2 Learning Activities Emotion Masks

- ▶ Work with a friend - help each other make your body language exaggerated and clear.
- ▶ Act out a simple task expressing your mask's mood - make a drink, do up your shoe lace, brush your hair, draw a picture.
- ▶ Act in pairs with both of you masked.
- ▶ Then act with one masked and the other unmasked.
- ▶ Swap masks.
- ▶ In pairs, make a short play expressing the emotions in your masks.



Smiley emoji (CC PD)

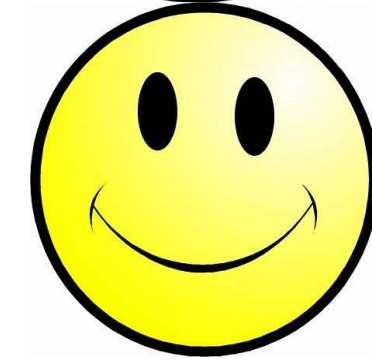
<http://clipart-library.com/free-smiley-face-pictures.html>

Levels 1 & 2 Learning Activities : Masked Performance

- ▶ Sit on a chair - pretend you are reading a book.
- ▶ You hear a noise.
- ▶ Slow down your activity; slow down & stop; slow down, stop, turn head; stop, go towards noise and go back; stop....Go again and PANIC!!.
- ▶ Split into 2 groups and watch the other group's work.
- ▶ Discuss - how can they improve their masked performance ?

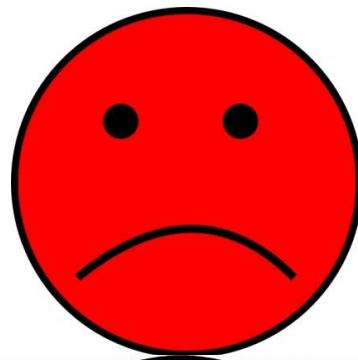
Watch this video for more ideas:

Trestle Masks Skills & Ideas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=349CvQdX5B4>



Levels 1 & 2 Learning Activities: Masked Performance

- ▶ In 2 groups start at opposite corners of the space.
- ▶ Put on your masks.
- ▶ Walk to centre stage as if you are on a catwalk.
- ▶ Make 3 different poses to the audience with pauses in between. Then walk off in character.
- ▶ Repeat - first act on your best behaviour, then show your worst side.
- ▶ Repeat both exercises with music.
- ▶ What difference does the music make?
- ▶ All return to the centre for a group pose & photo.



Sad emoji (CC PD)

<http://clipart-library.com/free-smiley-face-pictures.html>

Level 2 Learning Activities: Character Masks

Create a character for your mask.

- ▶ Explore their back-story and write a character study.
- ▶ Consider: age, family, friends, home, hobbies, favourite food. The more detail you have the better.
- ▶ Draw a picture of your character.
- ▶ Find costume to wear - a hat or piece of fabric will help.
- ▶ Work with a partner on a story called ‘ **The Weekend**’.
- ▶ One of you (unmasked) will tell the story of the weekend - the other (masked) will act it out.



Level 2 Learning Activities: Character Masks

- ▶ Work in larger groups and create a performance.
- ▶ Use a combination of masked and unmasked performers.

Story titles:

- ▶ Finding Joy
- ▶ A Brave Face
- ▶ My journey

Rehearse:

- ▶ Add music, props, costume.

Perform to an audience



Level 3 Learning Activities: Complex Emotions

Use masks you have made, or make new ones.

Look at Theme 3A Portraits & Theme 3B Masks for mask making ideas.

▶ Create masks for these complex emotions:

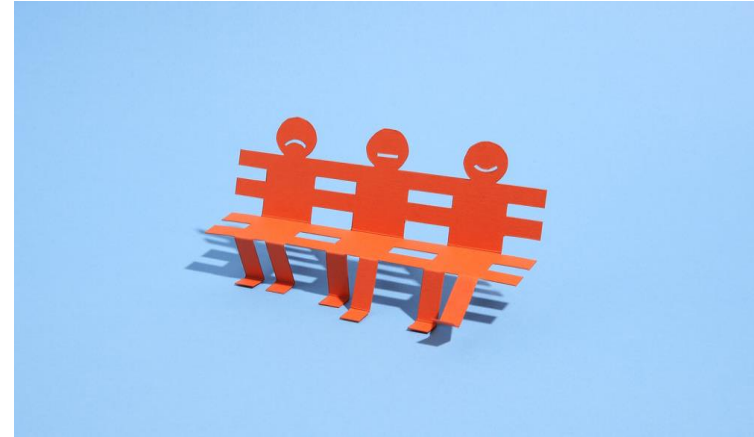
- ▶ Peaceful
- ▶ Lonely
- ▶ Stubborn
- ▶ Shocked
- ▶ Frightened
- ▶ Nervous
- ▶ Delighted



Level 3 Learning Activities: Friendship

Watch the German Company Familie Flo:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPGEeiZlR1c&list=PL4244CD1A3383B366>



- ▶ A “*Friendship Bench*” in Zimbabwe is changing the way we think—and talk—about depression
- ▶ Sit in a circle. Build a rhythm together: use clapping, sticks, shakers.
- ▶ **Unison** is when you all make the same beat, **Cannon** is when you use space between the beats. Try and use both cannon and unison.
- ▶ Discuss what friendship means to you.

Level 3 Learning Activities: Friendship

Watch Trestle Theatre video for more ideas:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=349CvQdX5B4>

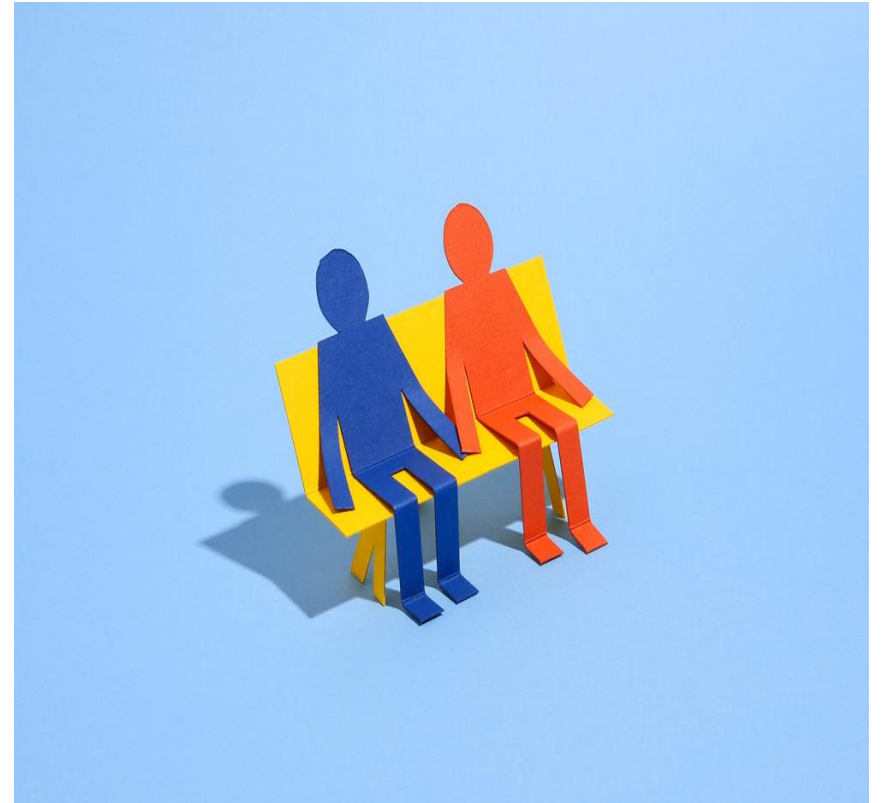
- ▶ Create a performance piece in groups entitled '*Friendship*'
- ▶ Act it - first with everyone wearing masks, then with some actors in masks and some without masks.

The story could explore one of the following:

- ▶ Family
- ▶ Fortune
- ▶ The Future

Rehearse. Add music, props, costume.

Perform to an audience



Friendship Bench (CC BY 4.0)

<https://mosaicscience.com/story/friendship-bench-zimbabwe-mental-health-dixon-chibanda-depression/>

Further Learning Resources

Companies who use masks in their performance work:

- ▶ Fetch Theatre company: <https://www.thefetch.co.uk/gallery>
- ▶ Vamos Theatre: <https://vamos theatre.co.uk>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ys5UGlvx3d8>
- ▶ Familie Floz : <https://www.floez.net>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPGEeiZIR1c&list=PL4244CD1A3383B366>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lerp1kU0mA4>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1vjEAEKNJs>
- ▶ Larval masks - Jacques le Coq
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzHPu5xD_hg
- ▶ Trestle Theatre Company <https://trestle.org.uk>