

Drama Literacy Pilot – Evaluation - 2022

Name ...**Geraldine Deponio**.....

School/Region**Hermitage Park Primary,
Edinburgh**.....

Stage That You Teach P4

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

The resource was very useful and easily accessible.

The pacing of the videos and the teacher notes were pitched just right.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

The children LOVED the drama lessons and were fully engaged throughout.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

The Drama content was spot on for P3/4.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

I think the captions helped the children to focus on the main points and remember them.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

The story lines and the interactions between the two presenters when they were in character.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

N/A

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

Very slightly long if anything. My class are very switched on, but I think other classes may struggle to stay focused for the whole lesson. I would definitely not make them any longer if they are to be done in a single session.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

The children really enjoyed writing the lists of presents they would/would not like to receive. They came up with some imaginative suggestions following on from the drama content.

We didn't do the comic strip, I'm afraid – my class had done something similar recently, but they were not really engaged with it and it took ages to complete. It is a good idea, however, and I think other classes would enjoy it.

I like the idea of drawing the bookshop – adding detail would help with other writing tasks. I also think that writing the story from the point of view of one of the characters is very appropriate for this age group. Until now they've mostly written from their own perspective.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

Confidence, performance skills, developing humour, working with different group dynamics.

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

Definitely great for Drama.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into? (Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

I would definitely recommend it. Budgets are tight, however, and it might depend on the school's priorities for the year ahead?

Drama Literacy Pilot – Evaluation - 2022

Name Dominique McGinn

School/Region St Aidans Primary School

Stage That You Teach P.4

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

I found the resources to be very friendly, the guidance was clear and after watching the videos I felt confident implementing the lessons. The lessons are very much led by the videos, so even those who are not confident in drama conventions would be able to access the resource easily.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

The children have absolutely loved the lessons. They were highly engaged during the lessons and enjoyed the active participation and group activities which has been reduced in the classroom due to Covid in recent years.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

As the children are in the last term of Primary 4, the middle school videos were somewhat babyish for the children. Example the present. The children sometimes found the tasks a bit repetitive and required a bit more challenge around the context.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Yes, the captions were are useful resource.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

The students enjoyed watching the videos of the women participating in their own drama roles (however, as mentioned above for the age of the children this was sometimes not the most appropriate)

The children particularly enjoyed sharing their own routines with the class and giving and receiving feedback.

The children often ask which day we will have the drama lessons on.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

One of the more challenging aspects is finding the right amount of control in the lessons. Its important to take a step back and let the children lead the learning however, at times it can be difficult to refocus the children after a task to watch the next part of the video as they can be very excited.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

There is an appropriate amount of content in each lesson, however, maybe for the upper stages of the school the repetition of each task could be reduced.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

Within the school I am implementing Talk for Writing, this is a similar approach to writing where the children are required to be immersed in an experience before writing. I found this tool useful in supporting Talk for Writing within my classroom.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

The children's familiarity with drama conventions and their confidence in performing in front of their peers.

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

Definitely, the resource has been highly engaging and has been motivating the children to write because they have lots to say about a particular topic and they are more capable of using their imagination.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into? (Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

Yes.

Student comments - We would love to hear comments from your students about Drama Literacy and in particular if they feel Drama could help them with all aspects of Literacy including reading and writing. Please include below any comments they might have made.

I really enjoy doing drama in the classroom, I especially like it when I get to perform in front of my class and teacher. Afterwards I feel more ready to complete my written tasks as I feel like my imagination is more alive because I have lots of good ideas.

Drama makes me feel more confident. I look forward to the lesson every week.

Sometimes I don't enjoy writing but doing the drama before makes me feel more ready to write.

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Name- Jennifer Smith

School/Region- Abernyte Primary

Stage That You Teach- P3-7

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

I felt that the resource was very easy to use. What we were teaching and learning was very clear. The videos were visual which helped. I liked how it was split up into lots of sections.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

Some feedback from the children:

"I find it very fun and I love being able to make my own stuff up" Claire P£

"I think it is good that you get some freedom in what you do, it isn't all scripted" Euan

"I like being able to mime stuff and imagine being different characters" Suzie

"I think it has been a bit repetitive. It is good but it could be better. I would like to spend less time doing the same thing" Suzie P6

I feel the children have generally responded well and have enjoyed it.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

I feel we could have went with the upper stages and adapted that for the younger pupils because they are quite able.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Yes I think it is a very good idea.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

I feel the short clips then active participation worked well.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

I haven't found anything challenging, except I didn't realise that you are supposed to click under the name of the videos for the lesson. I feel there is quite a lot of text on the website page.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

Perfect it allows me to do as long as I want because of the numerous ideas for writing.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

They were a bit simple for my pupils but I did adapt them, they did enjoy them though.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

Confidence in presenting and creating their own ideas for drama.

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

I think it is a great resource.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into? (Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

I do think it would be as teachers try to plan so much all of the time. If I was purchasing I would find it useful if the Es and Os and benchmarks were incorporated throughout the planning of it.

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Name: Laura Dow

School/Region: Cults Primary School/ Aberdeen City

Stage That You Teach: P3/4

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

The resource was extremely user friendly. The instruction videos were clear and concise and made delivering the pilot very easy.

Having the guidance of the learning intention and key skills associated with the lessons made it clear to the children what they were aiming to achieve and to

myself and my PSA on how to support and deliver the content. Having a background in drama myself, I full believe in the links between drama and literacy and am always looking for ways to incorporate this into my weekly routine. By following this format, this made it a walk in the park.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the drama lessons. I have many children to enjoy drama, and by giving them a stimulus as a guide into the drama, it allowed the children to extend their learning and thinking as well as use their imagination. By using paired and group opportunities it also improved the children's social skills and ability to compromise.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students? Yes. I observed the engagement throughout the drama aspects and can report that there were high levels of engagement and involvement from all learners.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Extremely. I have some visual learners who found the captions helpful in their understanding of the tasks.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

The children enjoyed taking part in the drama aspects of the lessons. A large group of learners enjoyed the mime lesson the most because they got to use their imaginations and this showed the most engagement and deep levels of involvement. I have many learners in my class who have additional support needs which affect their ability to concentrate for extended periods of time. The drama aspects fitted with their needs perfectly.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

Moving into the writing stage has been the most challenging, as many of my learners struggle with writing. Although the resource

gave clear expectations and ideas, some of my learners still found this challenging and wanted to go off topic.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.
The content for each lesson was perhaps a little long. An hour for the drama was too long for many of the children in my class, so this was shortened to around 40 minutes to keep concentration and engagement levels of many individuals.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?
Have differentiated activities (drawing, lists, writing, etc) has been helpful as the children have been able to access it to their varied ability.
In term 2, I explored Pie Corbett's 'Talk for Writing' with my class, so the children are used to making story maps to show the story.
Being able to share their drawing/writing with others gave many of the children who coast along during writing jobs, the purpose of creating an engaging and detailed piece of writing that was linked to their dramas.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

- Ability to improvise
- Co-operation skills (team/pair work, listening, following instructions)
- Giving feedback
- Oral language
- Writing language (using adjectives, setting the scene, etc.)

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?
Yes.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into?
(Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)
I would certainly recommend this resource to my other colleagues, to support the development of writing through drama. I know that many teachers worry about teaching drama as they don't know where to start. This resource makes it clear and easy to deliver.
Since covid, our school has missed out on so many opportunities linked to the expressive arts. Being able to have drama embedded into our curriculum through literacy opportunities would allow it to be seen as the imperative subject it is.

Student comments - We would love to hear comments from your students about Drama Literacy and in particular if they feel Drama could help them with all aspects of Literacy including reading and writing. Please include below any comments they might have made.

"I liked drawing my story. It was a good way to help remember it."

"It was really fun to act out the stories. I liked it when my teacher helped me."

"Drama is my favourite! I liked acting with my friends and then writing my story about it."

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Name**Lesley Davies**

School/Region**Kirkliston Primary**.....

Stage That You Teach**P6**.....

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

Easy to follow, the simple videos really helped.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

The children loved the lessons. First one they held back a little but once they were familiar with the routine of the lesson they engaged more. They knew it was new for me and that we were giving it a try together.

This class love writing stories so were keen to add bits in here and there, so we will be doing an additional lesson where they can be let loose with creativity and the skills they have learnt to present a short storyline of their own.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

YES

At first I thought some of it seemed young – but the simple ideas were really effective in illustrating the content and introducing the skill.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?
Yes, especially to keep the teacher on track!

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

The videos to start the lesson.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

For me – just getting started with it all. Once I had done one lesson I felt better.

The children – getting them to focus on the actual task – a lot of them think drama means a lot of freedom to do their own thing. Getting them to focus on character or whatever the skill is that week.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

Just the right balance.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

Great to have a written task.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

Yes, our RWInc Language program has bits of drama in it and this has reinforced those skills – ie hot seating

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into? (Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

Yes!

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Name ...Lorna Wardrope.....

**School/Region ...Loudoun Montgomery, North
Ayrshire.....**

Stage That You Teach P2/3

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

The overviews and teacher information were easy to understand and follow. I had to reduce the quality of the videos to have them play properly without buffering. Whilst our internet isn't the strongest, I do not usually have this problem with other platforms, for eg YouTube. Reducing the quality fixed the problem.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

Children were both engaged and excited about the lessons. They enjoyed the 'over to yous' and produced some great pictures / sentences after the input.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

Yes absolutely, they enjoyed the characters and scenarios.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Yes.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

Children enjoyed trying the mimes / actions for themselves. Sharing their pictures / sentences was also a part where children wanted to join in.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

<p>How are you finding the <u>amount</u> of content in each lesson? Please explain.</p> <p>This lesson easily fills a 90 min slot, with some time taken later in the day to finish any colouring of pictures.</p>
<p>How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?</p> <p>Children enjoy writing about what they have done on their daytrip.</p>
<p>What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?</p> <p>Making sense of writing – making sure it fits with the picture they have made.</p>
<p>Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?</p> <p>It has been excellence to have some guidance over what can be a tricky subject. Consolidating the drama experience with literacy has been helpful to their writing skills also.</p>
<p>Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into? (Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)</p> <p>I think depending on cost schools would be interested.</p>

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Stage That You Teach P6/5 (Upper)

<p>As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.</p> <p>Extremely – very easily accessible, clearly broken down steps / guidance with key skills outlined and provided LI.</p>

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

Very positively – could easily explain, discuss, and demonstrate the required skills, and found it very enjoyable.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

Yes, very much so.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Yes – helped pupils to understand actions clearer, particularly those learning English as an additional language.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

Opportunities to create and perform their own dramatic performances. Some pupils were enthusiastic to create their own comics to recount their ideas/performances.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

Watching for longer periods of time - pupils quickly understood what they were being asked, and only needed one example before trying it themselves. (Therefore these were often skipped).

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

Appropriate – although as mentioned above perhaps don't need as many examples (e.g. in the first lesson, one example of guessing mimed expressions was sufficient).

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

Okay - some children are less enthusiastic to create a written or drawn piece of work instead of / after performing.

For one class, doing the written work first/separately could perhaps enthuse them more in the literacy side, however having the input prior and fresh is relevant.

Some pupils would also be unsure / unconfident with the literacy side without examples, and so if the pilot becomes a full scheme, including some templates/examples of work would support children further.

There are lots of ways to link the drama to other aspects of literacy (links to Literacy Circles) such as predicting, summarising, visualising etc.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

- Ability to interpret, demonstrate, and discuss a range of facial expressions, body language and gestures in dramatic performances.
- Confidence in performing in front of others.
- Collaboration when working with others to create a shared piece of performance.

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

For drama extremely supportive. For literacy somewhat, however some children are less enthusiastic to create a written/drawn piece of work instead of performing.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into?
(Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

Perhaps, should drama/linking drama into literacy be an area in which they hope to develop.

Student comments - We would love to hear comments from your students about Drama Literacy and in particular if they feel Drama could help them with all aspects of Literacy including reading and writing. Please include below any comments they might have made.

"I liked performing"

"I feel more confident to become a character and show how they feel"

"I wanted to use props in my performance, so it was a challenge to mime everything"

"I can say what makes someone's performance good and tell them what they can do to improve"

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Stage That You Teach P5-7

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

The resources are very user friendly and easy to access. The instructions for each lesson are very clear and easy to follow.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

The students loved the resources and really enjoyed taking part in the drama aspect. It was really good to see the quieter children's confidence grow as the lessons went on.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

Yes, the drama was appropriate to the age of the students and it was also easy to adapt.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Yes, the captions are a very useful addition as they help the students further understand what is going on during the mime scenes.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

The students found the drama aspect the most engaging and they really enjoyed taking part in the drama activities. The drama was an excellent way for the children to express themselves.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

Initially I found the drama aspect of the resources most challenging as I am not confident in teaching drama. However, this resource has definitely helped my confidence grow around the teaching of drama.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

There is a really good amount of content in each lesson. We spend the whole morning on each lesson and it's a good amount of time to get through the drama aspect and the writing. Sometimes, we have to carry on the writing in the afternoon or finish it off at another time.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

The writing aspect has been really good and the drama has definitely helped the standard of writing. There are a range of different writing activities which can be carried out for each lesson which is very good!

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

Confidence,
Listening and talking skills,
Writing skills – more description included in their writing,
Creativity

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

The resources is extremely helpful in supporting the use of drama in the classroom. As I have said, I am not very confident delivering drama lessons but this resources has been excellent in building up my own confidence and supporting me in the delivery of drama within my classroom.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into?
(Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

This may be something that would interest my school.

Student comments - We would love to hear comments from your students about Drama Literacy and in particular if they feel Drama could help them with all aspects of Literacy including reading and writing. Please include below any comments they might have made.

It's been really fun doing the drama and I have liked showing my drama skills off to the class.

I have really enjoyed taking part in the lessons. The drama has been so fun and has helped me with my writing.

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Stage That You TeachP3....

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

I found the drama resource really easy to follow. I liked how clear the videos were giving instructions directly to the children and the documentation alongside which helped me structure my lessons.

I would have liked a bit more detail or maybe some examples for the writing aspect. I also couldn't use the suggested music clips as our school firewall blocked them so I just found some background music on Youtube for the activities that required it.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

The students were really engaged from the beginning. They were also able to cope with the content really maturely and worked well in their groups staying on task the entire time. I also notice their confidence grow across each lesson as they watched other children show their scene and even more so from week to week. By lesson 3 almost all were willing to show their scene to the class or another group.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

Yes I think it was definitely P3 appropriate. I asked the children this question too and they said it was perfect for their age.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Yes the children often read them aloud as they appeared on the screen and when asked 26/29 said they noticed and read them each time.

As a teacher I liked that they were included so there was a reading connection in the drama part as well as the writing task afterwards.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

They really liked acting out the different scenarios. When asked what they preferred about half said they liked the partner work and the other half preferred working in bigger groups of 4 or 5. They agreed it was good to have a balance.

A lot of them said they particularly enjoyed getting to perform their scenes to the class.

I really liked that each section built upon skills from the previous task. This is where I've struggled to format lessons as a teacher when I've taught drama before – trying to initiate a more complex end task before providing building blocks to get to that point. Eg. beginning with mine, introducing characters separately, slowly incorporating more dialogue and then opportunity to add to the story themselves.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

I think initially it was trying to convince them that the writing follow up wasn't the boring part or the 'have to' task as a consequence of the 'more fun' morning.

Once they get going with the writing they are fine and the majority enjoy it but each time me stating that we are going to write about our drama hasn't been met with much enthusiasm.

My more able pupils struggled to include as many ideas and details in their writing as they would usually whilst others loved it and produced much more than normal.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

It was perfect. It took us an hour per drama lesson and we followed up in the afternoon with a 45minute writing lesson.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

This worked really well for my less able, they loved the idea that writing can be cartoon strips or characters with speech bubbles and felt a real sense of success. Overall the children did enjoy the writing lessons and I found it was also a good time to work on art skills and get away from stick people drawings as we could really imagine all the details of each character after acting it out. I also had no one sat completely stuck as they could tell the story through their pictures and then write what they saw or write what they'd acted out – they found this much easier than having to just imagine things from scratch.

I would like to have pushed my more able pupils much more as in a regular writing lesson they'd probably produce a lot more. I gave them the suggested extensions once they'd finished the whole class task but they didn't really have time to do both. I might play around with how I format this for the final 2 lessons.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

Their confidence has grown hugely even in the initial partner tasks I now see the more shy children become fully immersed in dialogue with their partner.

I also

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

Yes I think it's great and easy enough to incorporate. I think it's fine as a block of literacy lessons but it's probably not something I'd be able to do throughout a school year. We use Read Write Inc for literacy and it's quite prescriptive, at this point in the year I've been able to condense 4 weekly lessons into 3 as the children are more into the routine and are familiar with the tasks. During our 4th weekly RWI slot we now do the drama pilot lessons – this would not have been possible earlier in the year which is why I didn't take part in the pilot before Christmas.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into?
(Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

I would love for our school to buy it and have spoken very positively about it to management. I've also had great comments from staff that have walked in during lessons and stayed to observe for a little while.

I'd hope schools would buy into it as I think sadly the expressive arts are often neglected in general class timetables and are left until year group shows or class assemblies. I think the skills they learn and the confidence they gain from drama is fantastic. As a school however we have found out our budget for next year is going to be reduced so I'm not sure whether it will be something they can buy but I will be requesting it.

Student comments - We would love to hear comments from your students about Drama Literacy and in particular if they feel Drama could help them with all aspects of Literacy including reading and writing. Please include below any comments they might have made.

'lessons were funny'

'they make you laugh'

'Julie and Louise are really funny'

'it was good for our age'

'it was very emotional'

'I liked that it was really active'

'we got good at being a respectful audience'

'we have learnt skills and are not being silly when we perform'

'I'm getting better at not giggling when I act'

'I think I get better each week'

'I really like acting out all the scenes.'

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Name Suzanne Milne

School/Region Hermitage Park Primary, Edinburgh

Stage That You Teach Primary 5

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

I found it very user friendly, especially good for me as I am pretty hopeless with technology. I liked having the link to the music which was a good support for the children's performances. The lessons' overview sheets were also very useful to follow.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

My class love doing drama and have always been keen to make up little plays and show them to the class. When this drama pilot arrived in my email box, I knew that it would be perfect for my class. They have loved following the lessons and every child has been happy to participate.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?
Yes, I definitely think the content was age appropriate for my primary 5 class.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Yes, I think the captions are very useful as sometimes information is missed by some children when they are just listening so the captions catch their eye when they are watching so they can read them. I also have one child in my class who has a hearing issue so this has been a support for them.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

They very much enjoyed when they could get going and re-enact the scenes for themselves and to show their peers what they had worked on. They also enjoyed putting their own ideas into the scenes.

They also enjoyed working together on creating the play scripts.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

The only challenges we really encountered were fitting everything in. See below.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

I should have started the activities a couple of weeks earlier than we did as we had a lot to pack in before the evaluation was due.

The amount of content was fine for each lesson but we took a bit longer than we should have to complete each activity.

My class love to show what they have created and all of them want to do so. In the video, you do state that half the class can show and then swap over but I allowed each group to do so, one at a time, resulting in us over running. This was the first activity and we were not able to do the writing/drawing part straight after the drama activity. It had to be completed the next day.

We managed to get a bit slicker with the following activities and were able to do the written parts in more or less the same day.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

It has been a good selection of writing/drawing activities which have been appropriate for my class. The children particularly enjoyed writing reviews of the restaurant from the perspective of the customer. Other children were keen to write from the waiter's viewpoint. As small groups, they jointly created their playscripts. They were able to support one another with this. Only one group required extra teacher support. Having acted out these situations beforehand avoided the 'I don't know what to write' _scenario which some of the children can struggle with.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

Their miming skills have been amazing. The background music definitely motivated them during their scenes. It was lovely to see the comic expressions and timing from children who can, otherwise, be rather quiet in class. It has also been good to see an appreciative audience. Also, watching the cooperation improve between some children has been good.

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

It has been great to have the support of the resources which have given me more confidence in using scenarios with the children which then can lead onto a variety of writing genres.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into? (Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

We have previously had yourself in our school delivering teacher support with selected classes. I think other classes would benefit from using these resources as a starting point.

Drama Literacy Pilot – Evaluation - 2022

Stage That You Teach p1-2-3

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?

Perfect it was engaging and the drama was easy for them to do within the class and at the right skill level for infants. The context was also appropriate.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

Yes very much so. It is important to encourage and provide opportunities for reading across curriculum areas.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

All of it, especially the active sections.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

There are times when the children have been miming something when the direction or speech starts again. It would help if there as something to indicate that this was going to happen to enable the teacher to stop the activity and settle the children ready to listen and watch again as we didn't want to miss anything.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

Perfect. It took a few weeks to begin as I had a very full timetable and it initially recommended an hour slot for each session however I found that it took less than this, more like 40 mins.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

Very easy and a great opportunity for the children to write at their own level. Easy to differentiate for a multi composite class.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

Cooperative work and mime.

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

Yes it is very easy to use.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into?
(Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

I would like to think so however financial cut backs have been enormous and sadly not enough priority is given to the creative subjects like drama and art.

Drama Literacy Pilot - Evaluation - 2022

Stage That You Teach P3/4

As a Teacher, how user friendly did you find the resource? Give details.

Resources easy to use. Must watch beforehand so you can prepare timescales. Children enjoyed watching the video, different faces make a difference to the children, expressions help set the scene.

Please describe generally how your students have responded to the Drama lessons.

The children have taken part in the lessons with ease and enjoyed the activities.

Do you feel the Drama content was appropriate to the age of your students?
The content was appropriate for the age of the students.

We included captions on the videos for 2 reasons as follows:

1. To include reading within the visuals.
2. To reinforce the content.

Do you think the captions are a useful addition?

The captions are useful as they show where the videos have to be stopped and the children can also read the captions.

Which aspects of the resource did the students find to be the most engaging?

The children enjoyed the teachers' showing examples, it can be difficult for kids to take the first steps when doing something different and seeing how the sketches can be acted helps them get started.

Which aspects have you found to be more challenging for yourself and also for the students?

It is not always easy to get children to engage in new activities and it took them a little while to get going, however after a few activities the children began to enjoy and participate fully.

The written activities were a good add on but were still a challenge to get the children to complete, they were far more interested to participate in the drama activities.

How are you finding the amount of content in each lesson? Please explain.

The content is suitable. For me fitting into a busy timetable has been a challenge. It can be the case where one week you set aside time and the following week you plan to complete more and something else can come up. It has also not always been possible to do all the written activities due to time constraints. However, that could be overcome by me (teacher) creating drama activities to tie in with other class topics. It is also really essential to watch

all the videos to ensure you know how long it will be and plan accordingly as when the children demonstrate all are keen to show their sketch.

How have you found the writing/drawing aspects in general?

I have not been able to maximise all the activities due to timetable constraints. This is more a planning issue for myself rather than an issue with the content.

What student skills have progressed the most would you say, over the course of this Pilot?

Shyness, confidence and performing in front of others. Some children that do not like to speak in front of others are happy to perform in front of the class.

Overall, thus far, are you finding the resource supportive in enabling you to use Drama in the classroom and develop literacy at the same time?

I am not confident teaching drama and this has helped me and will use this in the future where I have the confidence to create my own drama activities.

Do you think this would be something schools would want to buy into? (Please expand on how you think schools/your school would respond)

Yes, I do. Not all teachers have experience or training in schools in this area. However I am sure any decision would be governed by financial issues as is the case with many programmes that would benefit children.

Student comments - We would love to hear comments from your students about Drama Literacy and in particular if they feel Drama could help them with all aspects of Literacy including reading and writing. Please include below any comments they might have made.

Children have found it fun and engaging. Some still struggle to connect the literacy element, but most will have a go. It is also good as standalone lessons for teachers as not an area that is always focused on. Thank you for sharing this resource.

