

# Theatre Games

## Emotions

What are emotions? It's the way we feel when something happens. For instance – if you dropped your ice cream cone in the street – how would you feel? You might feel sad, you might feel mad or you might feel silly that day and just laugh. But you will certainly feel something. In fact we are always feeling something.

This is great news when you are acting – because if you are pretending to be a character – and you need to show a certain feeling or emotion for that character – you can think about your own life – find a time when you felt just like that – and use that memory when you are pretending. It's like having a secret box full of emotional crayons that you can use to draw any picture you want. It's a little magical isn't it?

How do emotions effect us? They effect our bodies and our voices. Here, try a few experiments:

Stand completely still, close your eyes and think about a time when you were really, really, really happy. How does that effect your body? Does your body feel like falling on the floor and going to sleep or does it want to run around the room?

Now try the same thing with your voice. Think of that really happy moment and then say the word "Yes!" But what would happen if you thought about a time when you were really, really grumpy? Close your eyes and think about that – now say the word "Yes" again. It's different isn't it?

Below is a chart with a list of words in it and a list of emotions too. Try saying each word or phrase while feeling a different emotions. Have fun!

	Happy	Sad	Scared	Silly	Mad
Good-bye					
Hello					
Who's there?					
I'm sorry					

You can even make up little stories to go with each of the above emotions. Let's try "Who's there?" and happy. Can you picture yourself doing your chores after school and feeling a little bored? Yet another emotion! Suddenly you hear someone come in the front door – you are thrilled thinking it is your little brother and maybe he can help you finish your chores in a hurry. So you can see how you would say "Who's there?" with a happy feeling. But I wonder what your little brother will be feeling.

Let's think about the emotions some of our favorite characters from "The Little Mermaid" and "Beauty and the Beast" may have felt. Think about how they felt in the different situations below and then try acting them out using those feelings.

**What did they feel when ...**

<b>Character</b>	<b>Situation</b>
<b>Little Mermaid</b>	She went above the water for the first time? She went to see the Fish Witch? Her sisters came to visit her at the Princes? She grew legs?
<b>King Neptune</b>	He found out that his daughter went to the Fish Witch? He decided to throw a huge mermaids ball?
<b>The Prince</b>	He found the Little Mermaid on the beach? He decided to marry the Princess?
<b>Beauty</b>	She first arrived at the Beast's castle? Her sisters were teasing her? Her father told her about the Beast? She thought she had hurt the Beast by not returning on time?
<b>Beast</b>	He caught Papa taking one of his prize roses? He saw Beauty for the first time? He told Beauty she could go visit her family? Beauty tells him that she will marry him?

## **Pantomime**

What is pantomime? Pantomime is acting out something without using words – just actions. You may have played charades with your friends – usually with charades you are acting out a word or a sentence, but with pantomime you can act out a whole scene too! The actress who plays the Little Mermaid has to Pantomime the entire second part of the play after she gives the Fish Witch her voice.

**First try these simple pantomimes below:**

- ❖ Pretend to be cold
- ❖ Pretend to be hot
- ❖ Act Happy
- ❖ Act Sad
- ❖ Climb up a ladder
- ❖ Walk through water
- ❖ Try walking into a strong wind
- ❖ Pretend you are waiting for a bus

Below are a few suggestions for pantomimes to do from scenes in our two plays. You make up a bunch of your own too. All you need is to come up with the characters (they can be as few as just one or as many as you wish) and then come up with a situation for the characters to be in.

You can use props and costumes if you want – but it isn't necessary. Just take a few minutes to decide who your character is and what is happening to them and then just have fun and act!

Characters	Situation
<b>Papa &amp; the Beast</b>	Pantomime the scene where Papa finds the rose garden in the Beast's castle. Papa decides to pick a rose for his daughter Beauty and the beast gets very angry at him.
<b>Beauty</b>	Pantomime the first time Beauty enters the Beast's castle. What does she see? What is in the castle? Is it cold? How high are the ceilings? What is the furniture like? And then – pantomime Beauty seeing the Beast for the first time.
<b>The Prince and the Sailors</b>	Pantomime the scene where The Little Mermaid has come above the sea for the first time and she is watching the Prince celebrating his birthday with the sailors aboard his ship.  Act out the celebration with the sailors and the Prince dancing, singing and cheering. Then they notice that a storm is approaching. Suddenly they are in the middle of a very bad storm that is rocking the ship back and forth.
<b>Little Mermaid and the Fish Witch</b>	Pantomime the scene where the Little Mermaid is swimming through the scary forest looking for the Fish Witch's cave. Then she finds the Fish Witch and she asks the witch to help her grow legs. The witch agrees but wants the mermaids voice in return.

Now use your imagination to come up with your own theatre games for you and your friends to play – there's no limit to your imagination!