

Alliance Theatre

institute

Creating Tableaux for Elementary School Students

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Definition - Tableau:

A tableau is a frozen snapshot of a compelling moment in a story.

Components of a Tableau:

1. Vivid facial expressions
2. Different levels in space (low to the ground, mid-height, and up high)
3. Character relationships

Try It!

Step 1: Create a social studies-based tableau!

- Select a historical figure you've been studying. Consider an important moment in their life and re-create that moment by creating a solo statue or group tableau.
- Examples could include:
 - MLK's march on Washington or his "I have a dream" speech
 - The Wright Brother's first flight in 1903
 - Rosa Parks refusal to give up her seat on the bus
 - Babe Ruth hitting a home run

Step 2: Create a science-based tableau!

- Use your body and facial expressions to create a tableau that illustrates how to decrease temperature.
 - **Scenario: You are outside on a hot day, and your ice cream starts melting! Create a tableau to depict this scene.**
 - Part of the tableau should identify/illustrate the heat source that is causing your ice cream to melt.
 - Share with your family (at home) or friends (perhaps in virtual space!) and discuss.
 - **NEXT:** Adjust your tableau to demonstrate what you could do to slow down the melting of your ice cream. What could you do to make your ice cream melt less quickly? Create your tableau, share, and discuss again!

Step 3: Create (3) tableaux based on a story or novel! (Remember to experiment with levels!)

- Tableau #1: Create a tableau of the most compelling moment in the beginning of the story.
- Tableau #2: Create a tableau of the most compelling moment in the middle of the story.
- Tableau #3: Create a tableau that depicts the resolution of the story, or how it ends.

Georgia Standards of Excellence:

TA5.PR.1: Act by communicating and sustaining roles in formal and informal environments.

SS5H6: Describe the importance of key people, events, and developments between 1950- 1975.

S3P1: Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information about the ways heat energy is transferred and measured.

ELAGSE5RL2: Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

Examples:

Check out these examples of students creating tableaux in their classrooms!

