

# Monologues

Use these extension activities alongside the book to adapt the material for your class.

## Friendship stop – imagine

In pairs

- Being new is hard. Think of some different pets in their new homes, looking around, getting used to new things. What would they be thinking? Are they scared? Excited? With a partner, discuss some ideas.
- Now create a scene. Choose a pet and decide how they would feel in their new home.
- Person 1: You are the new pet. You will be miming so don't speak. You walk around the house, looking at things, sniffing things. Imagine what might be around you.
- Person 2: You will be the pet's inner-voice, telling us what the pet is thinking as it moves around the house. Are you in a cage, in a house, a barn? How are you feeling?
- You must work together, listening to and watching one another.

## In goal again – mime

In pairs or small groups

- Without speaking, act out a sport in slow motion. Think about exaggerating your facial expressions – what does your face do when you miss a goal or hit a ball really hard?
- Try speeding up or slowing down, like in a film.
- See if the rest of the group can guess what sport you are playing.

## Tudor day – write

- You have come to school in costume on the wrong day and there's no spare uniform that fits. You will have to spend the whole day dressed up.
- First, in small groups or with the whole group, think of some really crazy costumes you could be stuck wearing. Maybe you thought it was World Book Day or Red Nose Day. Are you the type of person who would feel embarrassed? Or would you just find it hilarious?!
- Now create your own monologue of 1-2 paragraphs, describing what happened on the day you wore a ridiculous costume to school.
- Try performing it to a few of your classmates. If you can memorise it, that would be fantastic.

## Art trip – perform

In small groups

- A very famous picture is stolen from a gallery. In groups, make up a live news report, starting with the burglars sneaking inside the gallery. Were the burglars caught or are they still on the run?

- Write and act out the news report in groups. Maybe one of you could be in the news anchor in the studio and one of you is reporting live from the scene of the crime. Other characters could include: a detective, a gallery assistant, an art critic, or maybe the person who works in the gallery gift shop.

### My strange guinea pig – write

- Another unlikely animal has plans for world domination. Think of some animals that you'd least expect to try and take over the world. The more harmless the animal, the funnier it will be!
- On your own, write a short newspaper article telling the story. Which animal is it? What are their motives? How will they do it? Should we all panic?
- Think of a catchy headline, e.g. 'Guinea Pigs Attack!' A picture would be great as well.

### Rabbit – improvise

In pairs

- One of you is the rabbit owner and one is the rabbit thief.
- Improvise a scene where you are both trying to claim the rabbit is yours. Why would the thief think they should have the rabbit? Who would be more upset?

### Bridesmaid day – mime

- You are given a bright yellow knitted jumper by an elderly relative. You decide not to wear it but to use it in a different way.
- What other ways could you use the jumper? Make a list on your own.
- Take it in turns to mime what you are doing with the jumper. See if anyone can guess what you are doing!

### Boy in the choir – improvise

In small groups

- Imagine you have to do Scottish country dancing with people you don't know.
- In small groups, improvise the scene. Is it awkward? Does one person think they are much better than everyone else? What could go wrong?
- Remember, Scottish country dancing is usually done in pairs. It would be great if you could find some music for this as well.

### Nit – present

In small groups

- Where do nits go on holiday? In groups of three or four, share some ideas – what are nits interested in? What do they enjoy doing? How do they relax?
- Now, in your group, design a new holiday destination for nits. If you have time you could draw a picture.

- Present your idea to the rest of the group. Remember to explain your reasons for designing this holiday destination and why you think nits would enjoy really enjoy it.

## Under the bed – improvise

In small groups

- Imagine you are creatures living under the bed, thinking about what the human world is up to. What animal are you? What do you see around you?
- Improvise with your class. You are all creatures living under the same bed, but you're all meeting for the first time. Stay in character, introduce yourself to each other; talk to each other about your life under the bed and the human world. How did you end up under the bed in the first place?

## Dinner lady dog disaster – improvise

- Mum comes up to school to see the dinner lady to apologise again. Choose someone in the class to be the dinner lady and hot seat her.
- Ask her questions as a group. She must stay in character. What is she really planning? Will you have to do something to show how sorry you are?

## The maths genius – present

In pairs

- Write a list of ways to get rid of Brian and, with a partner, plan your most ingenious ways.
- Design, together, an ingenious and complex machine or plot and present your idea to the rest of your class.

## The dull part – perform

In pairs

- Using a spider diagram, come up with some ideas for a new baddie. What are they called? What do they wear?
- Share your ideas for a new baddie with a partner. Together, come up with an idea for a meeting between the two baddies somewhere unexpected like the supermarket, the park or Alton Towers. Write their conversation and perform your script.

## Bat – improvise

In small groups

- Improvise the whole story of the bat being found at night.
- How many characters do you need? Will you need any props?

## Foxes – narrate

In pairs

- Imagine that there's a fox in your house. It got in the back door. You must find it and shoo it out!
- Slowly make your way inside, telling us every action you take and all the places you are searching. Try this in pairs, with one of you as the fox, trying to hide!

## Broken leg – make up a game

In pairs or small groups

- In this monologue, Sasha makes up games about invisible rabbits. In pairs or small groups, see if you can make up a new game that includes animals. Think about some you already know, like dead fishes, leap frog, and what time is it Mister Wolf?
- Maybe the rabbits have to escape a patrolling fox. You could use paper circles to show their burrows. Teach your game to the rest of the class.

## Detention – stay in character

Whole group

- Pretend you are all in detention. Either the teacher or a student must pretend to be the teacher supervising detention.
- Write a selection of characters on sticky notes (always well-behaved, scared of sitting on a chair, laughs too much), one each for the whole class. Now everyone picks one out of a hat and must be that character. Improvise a scene with everyone staying in character. The teacher can give orders and ask questions, for example, 'stand up and say your times tables', 'tell me why you are in detention.'
- At the end, everyone must try to guess who had which character.

## Albert! – write

- Write a short monologue (1-2 paragraphs) from the teacher's point of view.
- Why is Albert always so naughty? Are you tired of children talking over you all the time? What would you rather be doing? Are you really dreaming about being on a desert island where there are no naughty children?

## The healthy lunch – perform

In small groups

- The ingredients in a sandwich are all having an argument. What would sandwich fillings fight about? Is the lettuce being squashed by the tomato? Is the cheese too pongy or the salami more popular than the other fillings?
- In groups of 3 or 4, write their conversation and perform it for the group. Remember, to squish very close together!